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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

FEBRUARY 17th, 1977, ISSUE No. 5

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SEE PAGE 24.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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This lovely young lass will NOT be at The L.I. Boat Show—but the writers of The Fisherman will be on hand at our booth to answer your questions, so drop by to say Hello! See page 6.

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From the Editor's Head '77 at The Fisherman

This issue of *The Long Island Fisherman* is our annual Long Island Boat Show Special. Local fishermen will be buying new boats and getting old ones into shape during the next few weeks in preparation for St. Patrick's Day, the traditional kickoff for flounder fishing and the start of a new season...that is if the ice has melted enough by then to launch a boat. Hopefully, this most severe winter since the turn of the century will have a decidedly good effect on the fishing after the last few dismal seasons, which may have thrown migrations and other environmental factors out of kilter after unusually warm and lengthy falls.

In any case, we'd like to take a moment or two during this pre-season pause to let our readers know some of the undertakings we have planned so that the success and enjoyment of the sport we all love will hopefully be improved. As *The Long Island Fisherman* begins its eleventh year of publishing and our sister-publications *The New Jersey Fisherman* and *The New England Fisherman* continue to prosper, we now have a stronger foundation than ever to bring the opinions and interests of fishermen before the "powers that be" with the strong voice it deserves.

We all saw what a few unorganized fishermen could do when we shouted loud for a 200-Mile Fishing Limit to protect our fisheries from the rape by foreign interests. In 1967 a little known publication with only a few thousand readers named *The Long Island Fisherman* ran the first editorial to appear in the United States about the necessity of the 200-Mile Limit. This was at a time when such prestigous publications as The New York Times, Washington Post, Newsday, Time or Newsweek magazine, et al, had even discovered that the Atlantic Ocean existed! Less than ten years later the President of the United States signed our bill into law, and in two weeks on March 1st the 200-Mile Limit will go into effect as a direct result of the efforts of sportfishermen, in spite of the years of opposition from the commercial fishing industry, Department of Defense, State Department, and disinterested politicians—disinterested, that is, until our letters started coming in numbers that could no longer be ignored.

Once again the influence of letters was made apparent when we ran an editorial in November '76 asking our readers to write their opposition to the insane proposal before the Army Corps of Engineers for vastly expanded designated fish trap areas in Great South Bay. We are happy to report that as a result of our efforts and your letters, the Special Projects section of the Corps has assured us that the public hearings will be held on the proposal, and at this point it seems unlikely that the proposal will be acted on favorably. We'll be asking you again in the future to write letters, particularly when vacant seats come up on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council for the 200-Mile Limit and we attempt to fill them with individuals who will better serve our interests. On the political spectrum, we can assure you that we will keep you informed and we will have representation at any public hearings that are vital to the sportfisherman's interests.

This year we will also be expanding our efforts to give anglers the deserved recognition by their peers when an outstanding catch is made. The Skillful Angling Awards program that was implemented in '76 will be greatly expanded, and we hope to increase the number of Official Weigh Stations from 60 to over 100 by the time the fishing season is in full swing. We will also hold our 1st Annual Fishing Contest for subscribers that set a I.G.F.A. World Record. Sponsored by Starfish Marine in East Islip, the unprecedented prize will be the contest winner's choice of a 20 foot *Mako* or *Grady White* Center Console, with cash prizes to the runner-ups. Also unprecedented will be the fact that there is absolutely no entry fee or other gimmicks. (For further details, see page 24 of this issue.)

Also on the drawing boards is a separate contest for inter-club competition. With the unfortunate demise of the prestigous Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest, *The Long Island Fisherman* will be filling the gap with a new contest so that the spirit of competition between clubs and individuals will not be lost, as to many anglers it is a necessary ingredient to the overall enjoyment of the sport. One major difference between ours and the former Schaefer Contest will be that a system for receiving points for fish that are released will be set up so that the contest doesn't encourage the same type of fish kill that many contests do. As soon as the final details are worked out we'll publish the rules and regulations in *The Fisherman,* and hopefully we'll be able to kick things off no later than May 1st.

The only thing that disturbed us about our Reader Survey that appeared in Issue #2 was why the heck we never did it before. Over 600 readers sent in completed questionaires and they are still arriving in the mail at the rate of ten or more a day. The results of the survey are printed on page 32 of this issue, and we'll be having a second survey sometime this summer with the questions worded a little better. In brief, as a result of the survey we will be making minor format changes that will include a new bi-weekly column on navigation and seamanship as directly related to the safety, enjoyment and better results in fishing. The column will be authored by Capt. Irv Levine, who has been schooling the future-Captains of the Island for their Coast Guard Examination for the last several years and knows his onions. Ken Walsh, formerly of the now defunct *Sportfishing* magazine, was added to our staff last fall and will add to his duties of Advertising Director some really loaded articles on offshore fishing. We'll have many more "where-to-go" articles for a specific area like Doc Muller's series last spring on fishing the Peconics, and more articles by local experts like Capt. John DeMaio of Montauk and Capt. Ronnie Lepper talking shop about particular fishing methods and techniques they are known for. More how-to articles, less beach beach buggies, etc.

The *Fisherman's Package* is tentatively scheduled to be mailed out to our subscribers around the end of March and will contain pretty much the same as last year's edition: tide tables for the year, photo submission blank, discount blanks for fishing books and classified ads, and about 20 discount coupons for saving money on open boats, charter boats, fishing tackle, boat rentals, marine electronics, etc. Local fishing reports will be expanded to include more input from individuals, and we will devote more space to photos of readers with their catches.

The Long Island Fisherman will also be moving into larger quarters in Sag Harbor this spring so that we can expand our production facilities and bring you a better product graphically. But as a final note, there is one thing we *won't* be doing this year, for the third year in a row—despite the fact that during the last three years the 2nd class postal rates have increased more than 100%, paper costs more than 15%, national inflation has been 25% and virtually every other publication has raised their rates between 15 to 20 per cent, *The Long Island Fisherman* subscription rate will remain the same. Why? Because we *like* you!

Scott Simons

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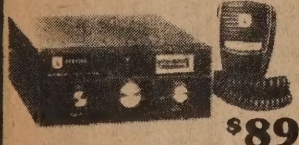

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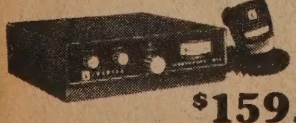

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CHUM LINES

DOES STERN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

When I go flounder fishing, which is quite often, I wind up fishing in the stern because that way I don't have to worry about somebody else handling the boat wrong which I have had a couple of close calls before. Anyway, when flounder fishing and the boat is anchored and the lines are out all the way, some people say I catch more fish because I fish the stern. I say that is ridiculous because I can fish anywhere on the boat and do good. Is there a difference? *Dennis DelMonte, Yorktown.*

You lose, Dennis—Fishing from the stern most definitely can have an effect on fishing results, especially when chum is used. It works like this: the chum slick is moving down-current away from the stern. As the fish follow the scent of a free meal up-current, the first baited hooks the fish comes into contact with will belong to the angler fishing the closest to the stern. Those fishing forward of the stern will have to settle for the leftovers.

Proof of this theory lies in the catch-dispersal of cod among anglers fishing from an open boat. An average dispersal for 100 cod taken by 50 anglers would be something like: 50 cod for the 10 anglers closest to the stern, the other 50 fish divided between the remaining 40 anglers. One way around this inequity for the small boat fisherman is to double-anchor the boat at a right angle to the current so that everyone fishing off the down-current side of the boat has an even chance at fish swimming up-current in the chum slick. Scott Simons.

"FISHING FOR WEAKFISH"

For Christmas I received your publication "Fishing For Weakfish." I couldn't put the book down and I finished it in one night.

I think that this book along with your other articles in L.I.F. and The Salt Water Sportsman are fabulous.

I've learned everything from your works and the others in The Fisherman. We even make our own tackle now. You should really know about all the people you make happy when you write those articles and share your information and secrets with other anglers.

We fish at Montauk, Captree, Heckscher and Robert Moses and I would appreciate it if you could tell me more about lures, tackle, and places to fish. Greg Giordano.

Thanks for the kind words Greg. The

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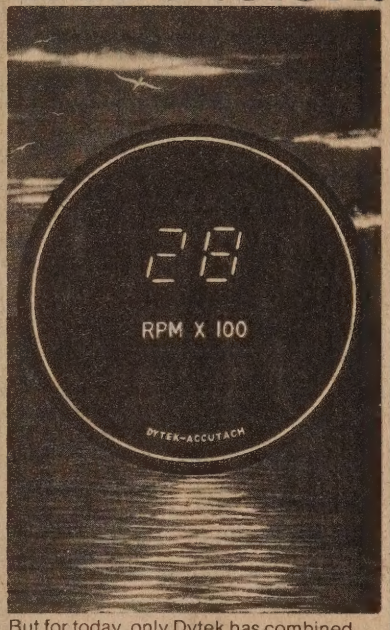

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fishing game is a lot more complex than many people realize and we never stop learning. Good fishing spots change and so do approaches. We recommend that you continue reading the articles and fishing reports in L.I.F. and other informative magazines like the Saltwater Sportsman.

I think that the tenacious attitude and the dedication to fishing that you express will someday make you a pro and then I'll ask you to teach me. Stick with it! Dr. Wm. A. Muller.

Pass It On...

SHARK MEN AT SHOW WITH "Jaws"

Notable shark men Capt. Warren Hader of the charterboat "Devilfish" and Capt. Frank Mundus of the "Cricket II" out of Montauk will have a booth at the L.I. Boat Show and will be on hand to answer questions about shark fishing. They'll be easy to find—just look for the head mount of a 3,500 pound Great White Shark hanging menacingly on the wall!

L.I.F. WRITERS TO BE AT LONG ISLAND BOAT SHOW

Many of The Long Island Fisherman contributing writers will be on hand at our booth at the L.I. Boat Show to answer our readers questions. The schedule is:

JOHN FRITZ—Sat. Feb. 19th 1—5PM & Monday Feb. 21st 7:30—9PM.
DOC MULLER—Sunday, Feb. 20th 2—6PM & Monday, Feb. 21st 2—5PM
VITO ORLANDO—Monday, Feb. 21st 2—5PM & Tuesday, Feb. 22nd 6—10PM.
FRED SCHWAB—Sunday, Feb. 20th 2—6PM.
JOHN DeMAIO—Wed., Feb. 23rd, 6—10PM.
FRED GUARDINEER—Thursday, Feb. 24th, 6—11PM.
BOB KRAUSS—Friday, Feb. 25th, 7—10PM
RON ONORATO—Saturday, Feb. 26th, 1—6PM
RONNIE LEPPER—Sat. Feb. 26th 6—11
STU MILLER—Sunday, Feb. 27th, 2—9
SCOTT SIMONS—Will be at booth all days EXCEPT Sunday, Feb. 20th 2—6PM, Monday 2—5PM and Sunday, Feb. 27th.

M.E.C.L.I. RECYCLE DRIVE

The monthly recycle drive of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island will be held on Saturday February 19th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pathmark Parking Field on Merrick Road in Seaford. Look for the ecology flag.

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To obtain service under these warranties, return the UGLY STIK rod with your dated sales receipt to Shakespeare Company, P.O. Box 4470, Columbia, S.C. 29204.

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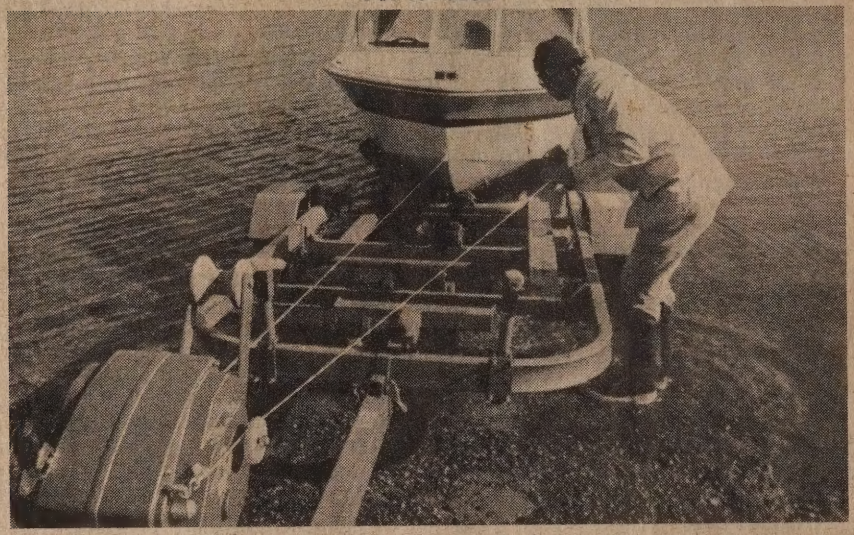

EDITORIAL

200-Mile Limit To Become Effective

On March 1, the 200 mile fisheries jurisdiction becomes effective. At that time, the Secretary of Commerce will implement management plans for the fisheries open to foreign fleets. In the future, these plans will be prepared by the Regional Fisheries Management Councils, but, due to the fact that the councils are still in the formative stages, Congress provided that Commerce could prepare the intitial plans. As previously noted, the preliminary management plans are deficient in many respects. Both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils have recommended that there be no directed foreign fisheries for mackerel and herring. We also feel that bottom trawls should be prohibited in the foreign squid fishery, as this is presently a "dirty" fishery—resulting in a large by-catch of non-surplus species, such as porgies, fluke and butterfish.

The new Secretary of Commerce, Dr. Juanita Kreps, has an impressive background in education and business. However, there is no indication that she has any significant knowledge of the marine fisheries. Yet, within a few weeks of her confirmation, she must make momentus decisions relating to these fisheries. In order to help her in this task, it would be helpful if every angler were to express his or her concern about the PMP's in a letter to Dr. Kreps. Ask her to follow the recommendations of the councils, or even simply enclose this editorial. It took millions of letters to get the 200 mile limit—in order to ensure that it works may take millions more.

Al Pinsoni

BOATING

BOATING COURSE

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 1-6, Amityville is offering a 12 lesson Safe Boating and Semanship course. Anyone may take advantage of this course by registering on March 3rd at 7 P.M. at the Copiague High School, 1100 Dixon Avenue, Copiague, NY. For more information call 587-8885 or 587-5427.

New Products

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Model 1400R. Flying Gaff, the only flying gaff made with an exclusive safety release trigger, has been introduced by Reliable Gaff Co. of Massapequa.

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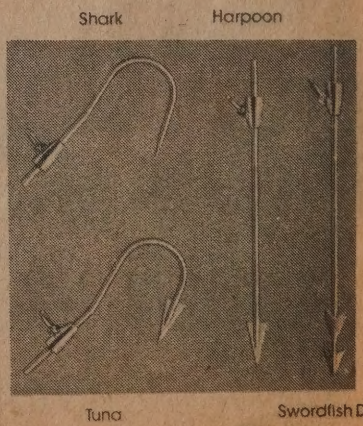
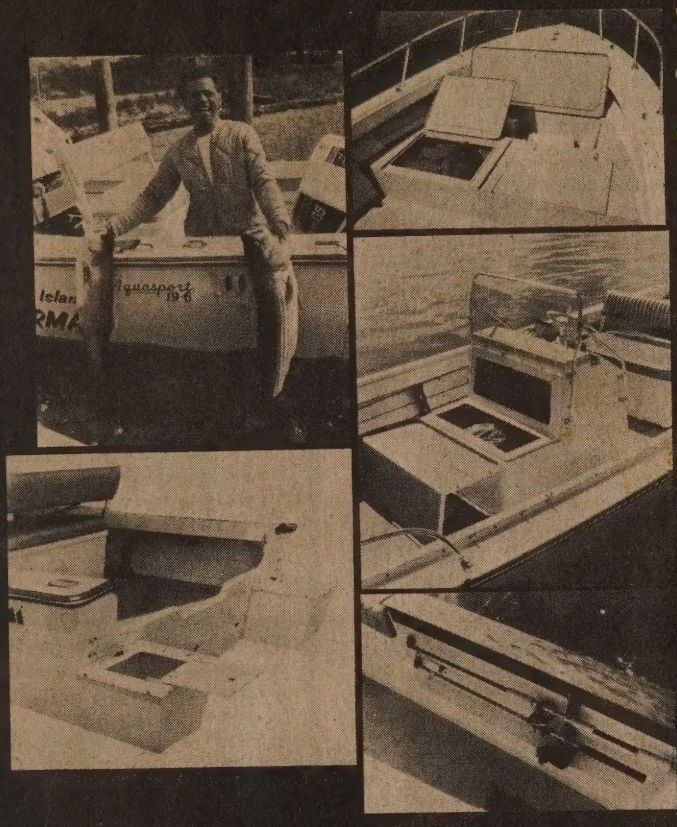
Reliable also manufactures a full line of straight gaffs for the sport fisherman which also carry the Reliable lifetime guarantee.

For more information, or for a catalog on the complete line of Reliable Gaffs, write Jerry Schnur, Reliable Gaff Company, 4160 Merrick Road, Massapequa, NY 11758. Phone Number 516 799-3928.





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CLUB NEWS

CORRECTION ON "FORMING NEW SURF CLUB"

Last week it was erroneously reported that the "Striper Surf Club" was defunct and some of its previous members were looking to form a new club. But it is the "Rockaway Striper Surf Club" that is defunct, and we are happy to report that the "Striper Surf Club, Inc." is alive and well. The announcement should have read:

Ten surf fishermen of the now defunct Rockaway Surf Club are seeking to form a new active surf club. They are looking to have a membership of approximately 30 to 35 fishermen. Anyone who is interested can contact Ed Wolfe at 212 327-8715 evenings or Ken Hejducek at 212 978-2617 days.

"SKUNKED AGAIN FISHING ASSOC." COMPLETES 1st SUCCESSFUL YEAR

On January 29th, the "Skunked Again Fishing Association" of Brooklyn New York, held its first annual awards dinner. Top awards went to Dave Lugoff for his expertise in the casting tournament, with club President Arty Morris claiming the "Master Angler" award. Eddie Casimo gets credit for the largest striped bass of the year and Joe Gianturo for biggest fish. The outstanding catch of the year went to Mike Alemonos for a 16 pound bass caught on 8 lb. test in the waters off the rocks of the former 36th St. Jetty which has since been covered with sand by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

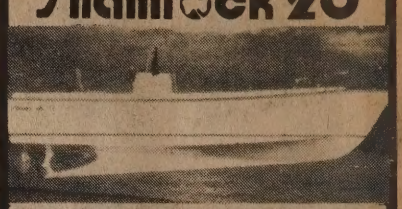
Newly elected officers for 1977 are: President—George Rogers; Vice Pres.—Mike Alemano; Secretary—Peter Falatico and Treasurer—Jimmy Medina.

FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB GIVES PTS. FOR RELEASING FISH

With a eye toward conservation of our game fish, the Farragut Striper Club announced incentives in the form of bonus points to members who tag and release fish this season. While the club is still in competition with other clubs, the bonus points count only toward competition within the club. The new rules award the member 25 points for every 10 fish tagged. Bass and blues are eligible, with no size limit on bass, and a 16 inch minimum for blues.

The goals of the program are as follows: To encourage tagging; To promote the release of as many fish as possible, yet still having them count for competition; To put as many fish of reproductive potential back into the environment; and Lastly to give some

Shamrock 20



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club members a chance to accumulate points who would not otherwise be able to do so.

It is our sincere hope that other clubs will adopt a similar program if only to preserve a precious natural resource.

WANTED: SERIOUS FISHING PARTNER

Wanted: Fishing Partner—Serious Only! I have an 18' outboard and trailer in Huntington LI. I would like to fish weekends from April to November. My age is 47 and I am a member of USPS AP. Cost would be to share expenses: Fuel, bait. Want companionship to catch fish. Contact: C.H. Berg, 1071 Scott Drive, Valley Stream, NY 11580. 516 561-5580.

4-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB BEING FORMED

Newly opened, The Phase-4 Automotive Store in Holbrook is forming a four wheel drive club. New members are sought. Members enjoy excellent deals on all off-road equipment. For further information, please contact Bob Mannara or Bruce Loughlin at 472-9518. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 8:00 P.M. at the Store, 6085 Sunrise Highway Holbrook.

TOURNAMENT ANGLER'S DANCE & AWARD NIGHT

The Annual Dinner and Dance of the Tournament Anglers to be held at the Manor East on Feb. 19th, 1977. Awards will be given to the following:

Al Griswold for a 15 lb. 5 oz. albacore (false); Al Griswold for a 291 lb. mako shark; Jim Farrell for a 15 lb. 2 oz. bluefish; Richard Fedoroff for a 41 lb. cod; Richard Fedoroff for a 35 lb. 2 oz. pollack; Joe Carter for an 8 lb. 8 oz. skipjack (Oceanic Bonito); Joe Carter for an 8 lb. 12 oz. weakfish; Dick Yarkin for a 28 lb. tilefish; Mark Erdrich for a 55 lb. 8 oz. tuna (Yellowfin); Bob Riley for a 131 lb. brown shark and Joe Masone for a 118 lb. blue shark.

HANGMAN'S ANGLERS (Senior Citizens)

The first meeting of the season will be on February 18th in Merrick. The order of business will be planning events for the coming season and a work session of rod and reel repairs. We have room for a few more retired fishermen who are interested in fishing and sharing expenses in Bay and Ocean fishing. We have the use of a 27' sportsfisherman. Tentative sailing date is 3/16.

If interested call John Connell at 516 MA 3-5356 for directions and time of meeting.

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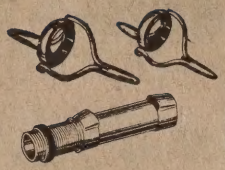
Building A Custom Rod



with Dale Clemens

Part III - Diamond Wraps

A little creative imagination and some experimental practice will enable you to develop more intricate, custom wraps. These are most often used to decorate some of the space on the butt of the blank between the foregrip and the first guide. By far the most popular is the Diamond Wrap and it frequently identifies the rod as being custom.

It is suggested that you make your first diamond wraps overtop of an underwrap of Size A thread, which has been given one coat of color preserver. The friction between the two layers of thread will help hold the threads forming the diamonds in place. It will be helpful to support the rod on two points such as two chairs back to back. It is also easiest to wrap four threads at a time. Each band of four threads will be a different color from the previous band. If these bands are wrapped on in the proper sequence, the pattern of concentric diamonds of different colors will result.

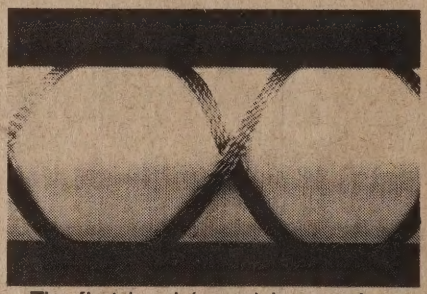
Select the color you want for the center of the diamonds. Cut four threads slightly longer than needed to spiral up the length of the blank desired and back down. Use masking tape to tape the ends of the threads in a flat band at the angle to the end of the foregrip. You will spiral this band of thread up the blank keeping the distance between each spiral constant. At the upper end of the wrap make a 90-degree turn and reverse direction, spiraling back down to the starting point and taping the end to the foregrip. When you reverse direction the thread will form a line of crosses, or X's, which should all be in a line. One line should be centered along the axis on top of the rod, and another line centered on the underside.

As you spiral this first band of thread, use moderately heavy tension. To keep the spirals equidistant, maintain the same angle to the rod as you move up the blank. When you reach the point where you want to reverse direction, change the angle—make the turn around the blank at a sharp 90-degree angle. As you come back down the rod make sure that each cross is centered along the axis on the top and underside of the rod.

The pattern of crosses formed by this first band of thread is crucial. Everything else will be built around it. Therefore, before proceeding, carefully check the alignment of the X's with a straight edge, as well as the distance between each with a ruler. It will probably be necessary to reposition some of the threads by gently pushing them with your fingernails. If your first attempt was too far off the target, remove it and try again.

The next two bands of thread will each be the same color. They will be wrapped on each side of the first band—first to the left, then to the right. This is the key to the diamond wrap: following the same sequence by building the wrap with first a band of color to the left side, and then another band of the same color to the right side.

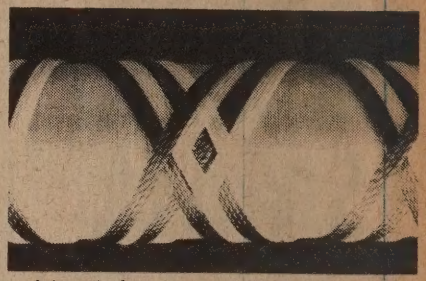
For example, to make a diamond wrap where the center of each diamond was green, bordered by white, then red and finally a narrow border of black, the following sequence would apply.



The first band (green) is wound over the underwrap.

A band of white is wound to the left of the green.

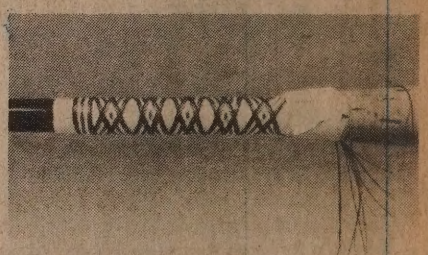
Another band of white is wound to the right of the green.



A band of red is would to the left of the white.

Another band of red is wound to the right of the white.

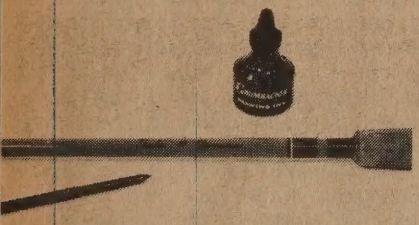
Two narrow bands of two black threads each are wound one to the left, then one to the right of the red.



The completed diamond wrap before the base wrap has been applied to anchor the threads.

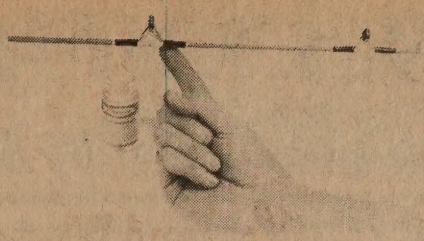
To lock the threads in place, a wide base wrap is made over them. Start this above the foregrip and wrap towards the grip, using fairly heavy thread tension. When the wrap is about one-half

completed, maintain thread tension and cut the threads with a small pointed scissors. Trim them back to near the edge of your thus far completed base wrap. Continue the base wrap over the cut ends, insert your tie-off loop, and complete as usual. To remove tiny gaps in the base wrap, compact the threads by pushing them towards the foregrip with your fingernail.



A custom rod deserves the signature of the builder. First, dull the surface of the finish on the blank with fine steel wool or very fine sandpaper. Use a drawing pen and black India Ink on light rods, and White Opaque on dark blanks (dark colors bleed through white India Ink). When you apply the finish to your wraps, also cover your signature.

Before applying color preserver, check the alignment of the guides and carefully move any as needed. Check the wraps themselves to make sure there are no



tiny gaps. Color preserver should be as thin as water to displace air trapped between the threads. It is best applied with your index finger, and should be worked into all parts of the wrap, especially around the guide feet. Give the wraps at least three coats, and allow 24 hours after the last coat before applying the finish.

If you are using varnish, thin slightly and apply with thumb and forefinger. You will need at least four to six coats. A much stronger, more durable finish can be obtained with a special clear epoxy coating (not glue). For a beautiful finish use a small flat sable brush. Load the brush and hold it against the wrap while rotating the rod. Set it aside in a dust-free place.

That does it! You've just built a truly unique custom rod. Your pride and satisfaction will be matched only with the thrill of taking that first fish on a rod that you built.

This article was written by Dale P. Clemens and contains excerpts from his book Fiberglass Rod Making (Winchester Press.) He operates Dale Clemens Custom Tackle, a leading supplier of rod making supplies, and serves as consultant to a number of rod companies. Dale is also publisher and editor of the RodCrafters Journal. His authoritative, instructional book covers every conceivable aspect of custom rod building, and is available from our own "The Fisherman Library."

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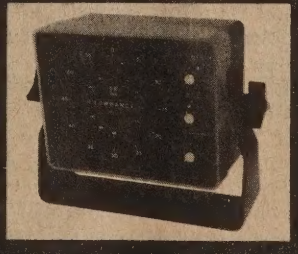

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CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council is rapidly approaching the point at which it will be fully capable of performing its management functions. The first big step was taken with the selection of John C. Bryson as executive director. John has just completed a term as Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control in the State of Delaware. That's a cabinet-level position encompassing both fish and wildlife, as well as water resources, parks, and soil and water conservation. John is a "take-charge" type with a strong background in both science and administration. I'm confident that he'll have council activities well organized in short order—enabling us to take the lead in managing our offshore fisheries, just as Congress intended us to.

At the last council meeting (Virginia Beach, Va., Jan. 13-14), Dover, Delaware was selected as headquarters. Dover is located about halfway between New York and the Virginia tidewater region, making it equally accessible to all members. This months meeting will be held in Dover, at the Holiday Inn, U.S. 13 &113, on the 9th and 10th. As with other council meetings, it is open to the public. In order to bring the council to the public, meetings will continue to be rotated throughout the area represented. The March meeting has been scheduled for March 9-10 in Ocean City, Maryland.

The New England Council, chaired by Saltwater Sportsman publisher, Hal Lyman, has been equally busy. They've appointed Spencer Apollonio, formerly chief of marine fisheries in Maine, as their executive director. Headquarters have been established in Peabody, Mass., just outside of Boston. Their next meeting will be held there Feb. 22-23. One of the council's members, Lester Orcutt (Maine), died several months ago, and a Connecticut member resigned leaving two vacancies.

At the joint meeting of New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils in December, primary responsibilities for preparing various management plans were divided up. New England will assume the lead role for haddock, yellowtail flounder, sea herring, cod, pollack, northern shrimp, redfish, hake and sea scallops. The Mid-Atlantic will handle mackerel, "other flounder" (including winter flounder and fluke), squid, scup (porgy), butterfish, river herring, sea bass, pelagic sharks, American shad, surf clam and ocean quahog. Billfish will be the primary responsibility of the South Atlantic Council. In every case, where more than one council is concerned with a species, the council with the lead role must consult with the other affected councils on the preparation of the plan.

An example of that cooperation is now being demonstrated in the case of billfish. The South Atlantic Council has called a meeting of representatives from each affected council to be held at Atlanta on Feb. 17th. I'll be attending that meeting along with Mid-Atlantic chairman, Dave Hart (N.J.) and John Burger (Del.). Recently, representatives of the Japanese longlining fleet met with each of the most affected councils to present their side of the story. Along with Hart, Burger and executive director Bryson, I attended a meeting with the Japanese in Philadelphia. At that time we developed some areas of possible compromise and also made them aware of our strong feelings in regard to billfish conservation. In order that they might better appreciate the great economic impact of billfishing on our economy, I arranged with the outdoor editors of the Miami Herald, Bill Ward and Jim Hardie, for the Japanese visitors to be shown the sportfishing fleets and taxidermy operations in the Miami area.

In order to continue controls on the domestic fishery for cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder, the New England Council has adopted a groundfish plan prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service as a Council plan. Due to the depleted status of these species, there has been no directed foreign fishery on them during the past year and none will be permitted this year. Though haddock are rarely taken by recreational anglers, except in northern New England, and yellowtail flounder are almost exclusively a commercial species, the primary interest to anglers in this plan is the cod.

The National Marine Fisheries Service feels that there are two basically separate stocks in the northwest Atlantic. One is in the Gulf of Mexico, and the other on Georges Bank and southward (south of Cape Cod.) Naturally, it's with the latter stock that we're concerned. NMFS paints a rather rosy picture of cod stocks, based primarily on fairly stable commercial landings in recent years. The plan states that there's been a "stable level of abundance since 1963, with good recruitment since 1970. A strong year class became fully recruited to the fishery by 1974 and the 1975 year-class appears to be about equal in size to that of 1971." The draft management plan calls for a quota of 30,000 metric tons from the Georges Bank stock. Of this, 20,000 tons would be taken commercially and 10,000 tons by sportsmen. This would be greater than the recent domestic catches, but less than the total foreign and domestic catch of recent years.

While NMFS seems to feel the cod fishery is in great shape, any area fisherman can tell a different story. Cod fishing has been declining for several years. The formerly incredible spring runs at Montauk have almost disappeared and the fall fishing has been even worse. In fact, this fall the cod fishery was the worst in my memory. In the metropolitan area it was almost impossible to find a party boat that was even willing to put in the time necessary to catch the few fish available. For the first time ever, the Viking Fleet at Montauk stopped running throughout the winter months. The total catch of cod is probably sustained by greatly increased effort, fueled by sharply higher prices and an even greater scarcity of such species as haddock and yellowtail flounder. Once again, the scientists seem to have ignored both the plight of the sportfishing industry and indeed, everyone concerned with the fisheries south of Cape Cod. That lack of information regarding local fisheries is evident throughout the plan.

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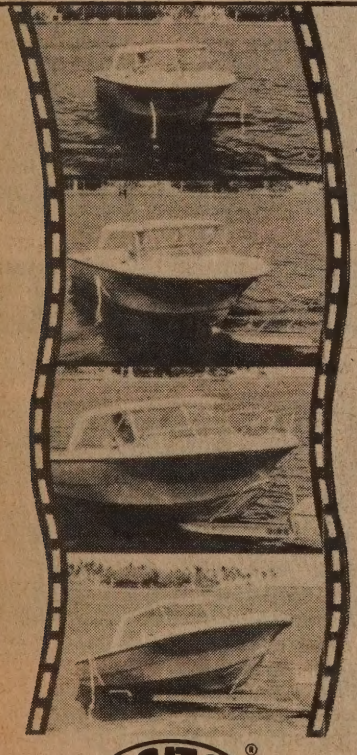

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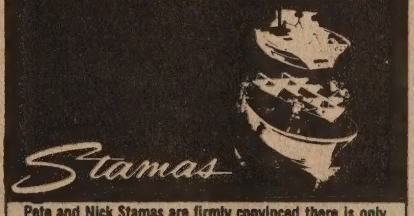

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

How To Fillet A Cod

I often wonder why so many fishermen believe fish filleting is difficult. You have my word for it: it's easy! I know from my own experience that once the correct method is learned, it only takes minutes to fillet any fish—including fluke and flounder.

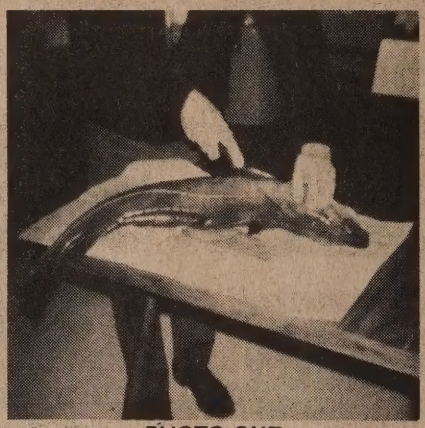
How to fillet flatfish has been covered in past issues of LIF. If you've missed them, don't fret. They will be covered again this year, during the appropriate season. But now while we impatiently await winter's demise so that we can all get fishing again, let's see how to go about filleting cod. Incidentally, you can use this method for filleting any round fish you desire.

Glance at the photos as we go along and then study the text before starting on your first fish. Follow the step-by-step instructions to the letter and you will produce cod fillets without difficulty.

It is always best to gut fish before filleting. (Except flatfish.) When gutting is done first, round fish are easier to manage. Use a good, well-sharpened fillet knife, a cutting board, plenty of newspaper to catch the drippings, and you're all set.

Photo One. Place fish on board as shown and make a diagonal cut from the shoulder to the vent. Don't be concerned if this cut appears to waste meat around the stomach area. These belly flaps don't taste too good in my estimation. (You can always salvage them later, if you

(Continued On Page 39.)



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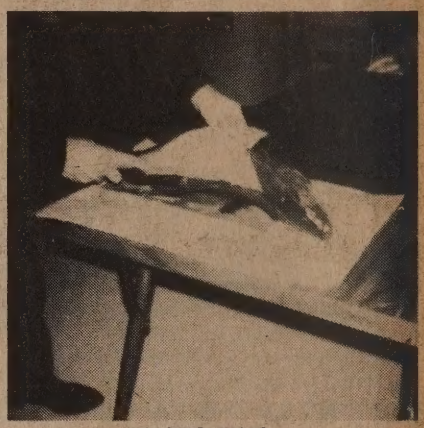

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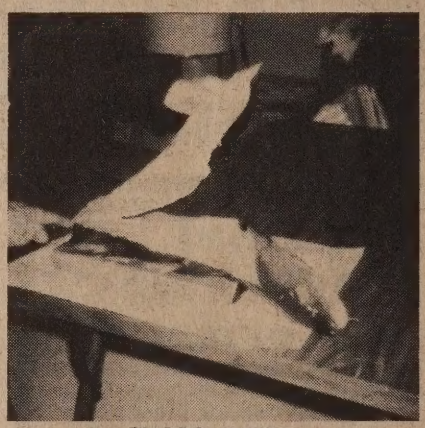

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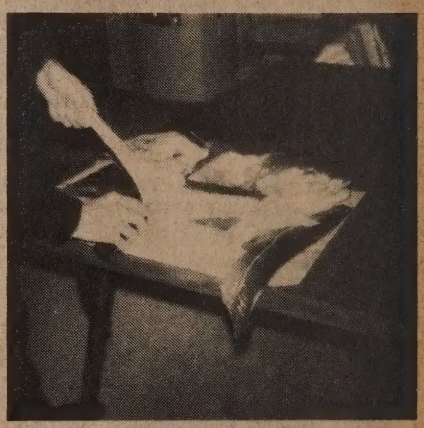

PHOTO FOUR

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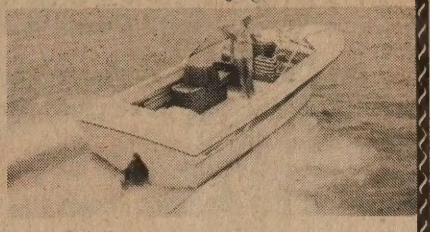

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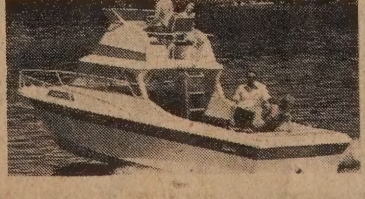

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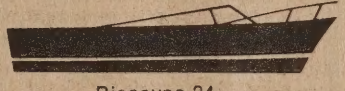

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Surf Side with Doc Muller

Weather Science For Surfcasters
Part V - Major Storms

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The next two episodes of SurfSide are a continuation of a weather series that ran in the winter of 1974.*

The purpose of this series was and is to provide the surf fisherman, or any angler for that matter, with a more technical background in meteorology. Thus, a fisherman can apply basic weather science to his evaluation of weather conditions that pertain to his sport.

Major storms for example, the topic of this week's column, have profound effects upon our angling success, especially during the fall months.

Have you ever checked a weather forecast before leaving for the beach only to arrive there and discover that hoped for northeast winds were unexplainably southeast?

Well, we have but a good working knowledge of the subject which has improved our success and decreased our disappointments.

It seems to us, that a good sportfisherman must know his weather as well as he knows his water.

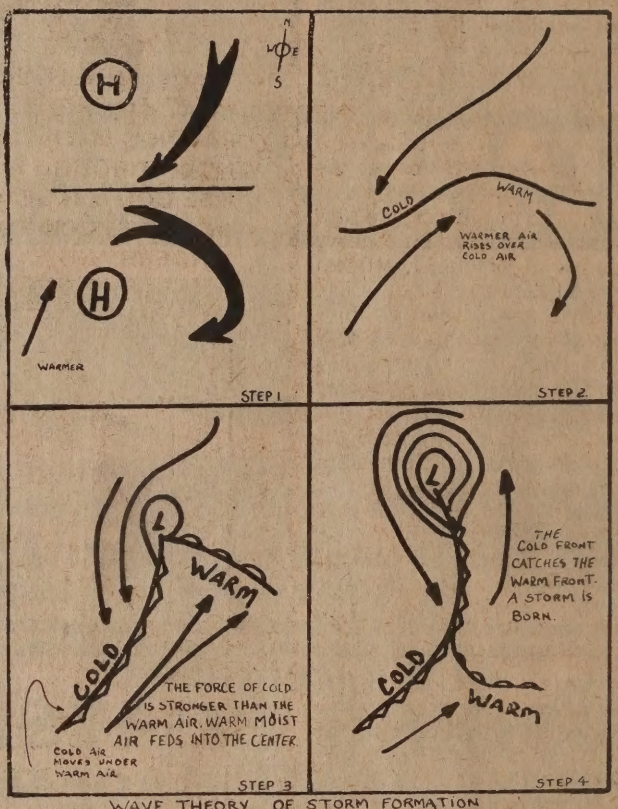
The pattern of the weather begins to change in September. Our major bad weather worries during the summer were thunderstorms, but now we can add hurricanes and minor coastal storms to the menu.

During the first few decades of this century, a scientist by the name of Bjerknes investigated several related atmospheric and oceanic phenomena. One of the products of his work was the wave theory of storm formation. (Figure 1.)

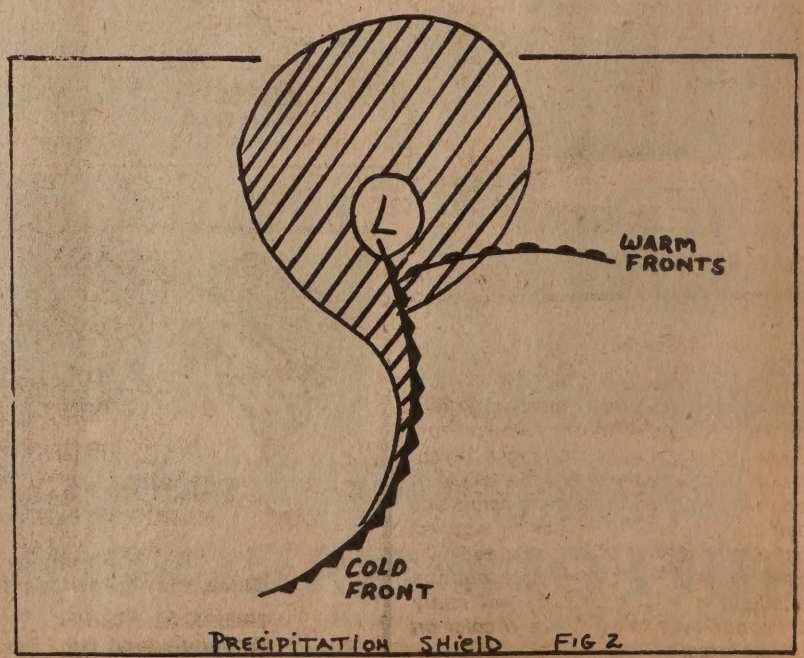
According to this theory, clockwise winds around two highs conflict at the valley between them. Therefore, a counterclockwise circulation is developed which can become a storm if adequate moisture is available and atmospheric conditions favor the developing storm.

Major storms usually develop in the southern plains area, in the Gulf of Mexico, or along the southeastern coastal states. How these storms affect the New York Metropolitan area depends upon how they move after they have developed.

Frequently storms that develop in the southern plains move more northerly than easterly and they track up through the St. Lawrence. This puts our area in the southeastern quadrant of the storm.



WAVE THEORY OF STORM FORMATION
FIG 1



PRECIPITATION SHIELD FIG 2

This quadrant is characterized by showers and occasional rain with winds from the south or southeasterly direction. Heavy continuous rain does not typify this sector of the storm because the major area of precipitation is in the northwest quadrant. (Figure 2.)

However, when the storm tracks to the east several different things can happen. First, the storm can "die" when it hits the mountains. Second, the storm can turn to the northeast after hitting the coast and then intensify. Third, a secondary depression may form around Cape Hatteras and, although the primary low may "die," the secondary low can develop explosively and move up the eastern seaboard.

In the second and third cases, the New England coast will experience heavy precipitation and strong northeast winds. When these storms occur in late September and early October their intensity and frequency can set the pace for the fall fishing.

If the storms are too numerous the fall migration of bait and gamefish may not only be initiated but may also be accelerated, with many of the schools of fish flying by far offshore.

However, one northeaster in late September followed by a period of cool pleasant weather may start the fall run and help to keep it going for many weeks with a good supply of fish close to the beach.

Hurricanes present many problems for us. Their winds are frequently so severe that huge sections of bottom can be torn up and destroyed. Thus, bars and other beach characteristics can be obliterated overnight.

The effects of torrential rains and very high winds are too unpredictable, as are the size and severity of the hurricane. Each hurricane, then, must be looked at individually and the fisherman has to hope that whatever the effect is, it won't be disastrous.

ASK THE LEPPER
(Continued from page 20.)

because color in lures is more important than most people know. I could state facts and incidents concerning different colored lures that would fill a book. If you really want to understand colors and their use in fishing, I strongly suggest that you read "Thru the fishes eye" by expert Mark Sosin. I feel sure that this excellent, well written book will really open your eyes to the value of color on fishing lures.

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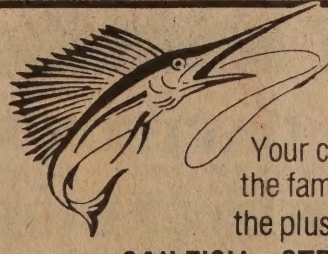

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ASK THE CAPTAIN

OPINIONS & ANSWERS

by Capt. Ronnie Lepper

Question: Gil Lilienthal, Sayville.
Could you tell me of a method of straightening out or removing the "memory" from monofilament? I make up all my own rigs and tie my own hooks and my problem is in getting them to hang straight. I do have some of the 4 foot straight leaders which I purchased from Midland Tackle but a lot of rigs require greater lengths.

You are not alone in your quest for straight mono in long lengths. Regretably, I know of none other than the 4 foot pieces you mention. I can do a reasonably adequate job on the heavier mono by stretching it between two points (approx.) 10 ft. then running a rag covered (v) block along its length creating a small amount of heat. I have had limited success with this method. If anyone has a more successful approach to this problem, please send it along and enlighten us as many have the same problem.

Question: Tom Volpe, Bkly'n.
I was talking to some old timers at Sheepshead Bay recently and they told me they used to catch humpback sea porgies that weighed between 3 and 6 pounds. These monsters were supposed to be caught at Breezy Pt. years ago. I was also told by these old guys that they could catch 2 or 3 hundred pounds a day without even trying. Can you tell me if their story is true or are they just pulling my leg?

Those old salts are not only telling it like it was, if anything, they're playing it down. Al Coley, Captain and owner of the Betty W out of Sheepshead Bay, John Weiser of Stella Maris and myself used to fish commercially for those humpbacks in the late 40's and early 50's. We were partners on an old box keeled Jersey skiff named "Hard-earned" that leaked 100 gal. an hour. We fished a hole just inside the bell buoy right in front of the Breezy Pt. jetty. In an average morning the three of us using 7 hook guinea rigged handlines would fill a 500 pound capacity hogs head barrel. We rarely fished for more than three hours. We used to peddle our catch to old man Randazo at his fish store near Lundy's. 5 to 10 cents per pound was our big haul for the day. (They now bring an average of $1.00 a lb.) The Tin Can Grounds laying further to the south also produced some great porgy catches for years. I'm sure that we broke the porgy record many times but were too young to think about it. Unfortunately for reasons unknown to me the big fish left that area years ago and never came back. You can still catch porgies in the same places but not as large or anywhere as numerous as they had been in those days past.

Question: Alan O'Connel, Bellmore.
I am putting together a 24 ft. wood bass boat with dual controls and stern steering. The hull is old but sound and the steering good. I set up direct rear steering by putting a coupling over the top of the rudder post and continuing it up thru the stern deck. I can steer easily from the forward steering wheel but find the rear one very hard. I've seen your boat out fishing and noticed that you had a tiller in the stern. If your tiller works properly, what am I doing wrong?

First of all you did not tell me what type of steering you have in the boat. I will assume by what you told me that you have geared steering as most older boats do. Trying to turn a rear tiller against geared steering is next to impossible. I suggest you install Teleflex cable steering in place of what you already have. I find Teleflex completely adequate as long as you do not add another station such as a bridge or tower station. You can turn your rear tiller against one other Teleflex station such as your forward wheel but that's all. You can also do away with your forward steering wheel and install direct steering to a forward tiller using pipe connections as this makes for a beautiful set up on boats of 26 ft. and under. I had this dual tiller steering on two previous boats and loved it. If you decide to install the dual tiller set up, drop me a line and I will lay it out for you.

Question: Paul Friedman, Rego Park.
Actually how important is the use of different colors in lures? I see so many different colored lures on the market, and they all seem to catch fish. I am beginning to feel as though the tackle manufacturers are ripping us off.

I am sorry that you feel the way you do

(Continued on page 19.)

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The Verity Skiff - A Rebirth!

by Stu Miller

The old breed of Baldwin Harbor fisherman is fading away, but his common sense approach to boating has recently been rejuvinated by Al Grover, well known Freeport boat dealer.

Al, a native Long Islander, grew up in Baldwin, L.I. and had a first hand view of the tough little Verity skiffs and their equally tough, hardworking skippers. Built to fish the Long Island waters in all seasons, in the summer, the cabin was easily removed for lobstering and gill netting, while in the winter, captain and mate snuggled in the house between "settin' the lines." The fisherman had no use for fancy engine gear. The gas was gravity-fed, and the starter button was mounted right on the engine. All the approaches were simple, but effective. The fisherman wanted a functional, economical boat. The boat had to pay and had to be seaworthy. It was just this approach that led Al to the production of the "Grover 26."

In 1975, Al spotted one of the original Veritys, neglected and sunk at the dock in Baldwin. He gave the surprised owner a c-note for the derelict hull. After raising her, Al had to patch and smooth the tired old planks in order to make a mold. The fiberglass mold took 6 months to perfect and Al hired some experts in the field to advise and guide him.

A unique part of the Grover 26 is the box garboard keel, which keeps the boat from getting hung up. I test drove the boat recently, out through ice-choked Woodcleft Canal, past Jones Inlet and out into the ocean. Since diesels are inherently "noisy," an absolutely quiet ride is not in the cards, but Al says that more sound proofing will be put into the engine compartment. I drove her into 5' head seas and although a lot of water shot up and back past the non-flared bow, we stayed absolutely dry, thanks to the windshield and top.

She held a steady course and steered true in heavy head and beam seas. The narrow beam (and transom) laughed at a following sea. Dropping down into the 5' holes demonstrated a solidness of construction. Not a tremble or a shudder. In the heavy pitching and rolling of the beam sea, Al sat jauntily on the transom and rambled on as to how safe a man could feel in his boat. (He's been sport and commercial fishing in this area his whole life.)

On the way back in, Al said to drive the boat onto the beach. I asked him to repeat that. Yes—I had heard right...he wanted me to see why the old timers loved that hull, keel and skeg, that enabled the boat to dig its way off a beach or sandbar. I throttled into a pocket off Pt. Lookout and hung the boat up on the beach end of a 6' bar. "Steer towards the water and ease the throttle ahead." I did. The stern did some wiggling and sure enough, she dug herself off the bar. Impressive.

It was becoming plain to see why the Verity skiff had earned the reputation of a great sea and shoal water craft, why they became much like a beloved member of a commercial fishermans family. They were known to market fishermen as a boat that would get you out to where the fish were, and back home again, safely.

The cabin is good sized and the cockpit (except for the engine box) clean and uncluttered and watertight. Super economy comes from the stingy 4 cylinder diesel engine, which burns about 1¾ G.P.H., giving an approximate cruising range of 500 miles on 50 gallons of fuel. She cruises at 17 MPH at 2200 RPM. A 6 cyl. diesel will burn 3 G.P.H.

Al feels the most important feature is

(Continued on page 40.)

The clean, classic lines are evident in this broadside shot.

Plenty of clear cockpit space. This boat was ordered with stern controls.

FRESHWATER FISHING
with Angelo Peluso

Bass Survey Results

In April 29th, 1976 issue of *The Long Island Fisherman* this column contained a questionaire pertaining to the freshwater basses: The largemouth and smallmouth. Your responses to this survey were both considerable in number and enlightening. In an attempt to share the thoughts of your fellow bass anglers, I have examined the data and developed the following relationships. I hope that the results can, in some way, prove to be helpful during your bass angling experiences on Long Island.

For those of you that might have missed the original survey I will re-state the questions and follow with the related responses.

1. How long have you been bass fishing?

The average number of years is 11.3, while the range for all the responses is 1-35 years.

2. How long have you been involved with bass fishing on Long Island?

The average response is 8.3 years, with the range being 1-35 years.

3. How do you rate Long Island bass fishing?

POOR 3.2% FAIR 38.7% EX. 3.2%
GOOD 48.4% NO OPINION 6.3%

4. How do you rate Long Island bass waters as compared to other areas of the state?

EQUAL TO 43% BETTER THAN 3%
WORSE THAN 26% NO OPINION 28%
(The high percentage is attributable, in part to the fact that many of the anglers responding had never fished, at the time of the survey, in areas other than Long Island.)

5. What is your favorite Long Island bass water?

The two areas most sited are Lake Ronkonkoma and the Peconic River system, to include Forge Pond.

6. How many times a year do you go bass fishing?

The average response is 25 times.

7. What is your biggest largemouth bass and smallmouth bass?

The largest bass reported is a 12 pound largemouth. The heaviest smallmouth weighed in at 8 pounds 2 ounces. The averages for the two categories of "biggest" bass are: Largemouth—4 pounds 9 ounces; and Smallmouth—2 pounds 9 ounces.

8. What is your biggest Long Island largemouth and smallmouth?

The largest Long Island largemouth reported is 9 pounds 14 ounces. The largest Long Island smallmouth tipped the scales at a whopping 8 pounds 2 ounces. The averages for the two categories of "biggest" Long Island bass are: Largemouth—3 pounds 8 ounces; Smallmouth—2 pounds even.

9. What percentage of your bass fishing time is spent on Long Island?

The majority of the responses range from 75-100% of the angler's time is spent bass fishing on the Island.

10. Have you ever taken a legal limit of bass from Long Island waters?

YES 54% NO 46%

11. Do you regularly take a Long Island legal limit?

YES 24% NO 76%

For those that do not take a regular Long Island limit, they do so with a consistency of once every fifth outing.

12. What do you feel is the average weight of the Long Island bass that you catch?

The predominant response is 1-1½ pounds.

13. What bass fishing season do you prefer?

SPRING 45% SUMMER 18% FALL 37%

14. During which season do you catch the largest Long Island bass?

SUMMER 23% SPRING 54% FALL 23%

15. What time of day do you prefer to bass fish?

DAWN 50% MID-DAY 13% DUSK 32%
NIGHT 5%

16. What angling method do you prefer?

SPINNING 62% BAIT CASTING 24%
BASS BUGGING 14%

17. Do you prefer casting, trolling or still fishing?

CASTING 90% STILL FISHING 10%

18. What is your favorite Top Water Lure, Mid-range lure and Bottom lure?

By far, the single most popular bottom lure is the plastic worm. The crank bait ranks as the number one mid-range lure. Since the top water preferences varied greatly, I will list some of the more popular lures: Jiggerbug, Torpedo, Lucky 13, Rapala, and Rebel Minnow.

19. What depth do you find most productive for bass?

1-6 ft. 67% 6-10 ft. 20% 10-18 ft. 8%
Below 18 ft. 5%

20. What water temperature range do you prefer?

55-60 11% 60-65 25% 65-70 30%
70-75 34%

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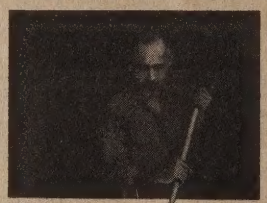

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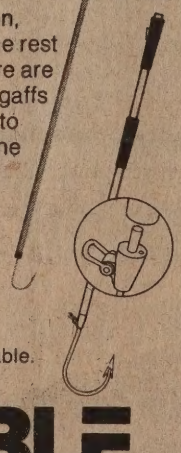

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21. Do you prefer to bass fish on a clear day or a cloudy day?
CLEAR DAY 21% CLOUDY DAY 79%

22. Do you prefer a slight wind or no wind?
SLIGHT WIND 40% NO WIND 60%

23. Do you look for specific "structure" when bass fishing?

The greatest responses to this question indicate that most Long Island bass anglers look for some sort of specific structure when bass fishing. The type of structure indicated with the most frequency is of a "weed" variety: weedlines, weed beds, sheltered weeds, or weeds bordering a drop-off.

24. Do you use a depth recorder as an aid to your fishing? A thermometer? An oxygen monitor? An electric trolling motor?
DEPTH RECORDER Yes 36%
THERMOMETER Yes 14%, No 86%
Oxygen Monitor Yes 0%No 100%
Electric Motor Yes 44% No 56%

Twenty-two percent of the anglers responding use either a depth finder, a thermometer or an electric trolling motor.

25. What size and type of boat do you prefer for Long Island bass fishing?

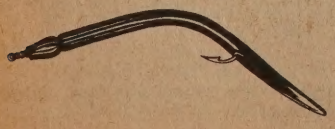
The most popular boat by far is a 12 foot jon boat which, incidentally, is most often car-topped.

26. What would you like to see done for the betterment of Long Island bass fishing?

The comment which appears to be of noteworthy significance is one which expresses a deep concern for the future of bass fishing. Most of the responses indicate that the majority of bass anglers would like to see a solid program developed for the future management of the basses. Also expressed was the sincere desire to keep preserved that which we currently have; a big concern centered about little and the ultimate effects that it can have on Long Island lakes and ponds.

It is very appropriate for me to mention that two of the major fishing clubs on Long Island, The Long Island Bassmasters and The Nassau County Bassmasters are currently working with the Department of Environmental Conservation in a four year bass study program. If any of the readers are interested in becoming more involved in bass conservation programs, I would suggest that they make a contact with one of the clubs mentioned. Volunteers with a sincere dedication to bass fishing are always wanted.

Well bassin' buddies, that's about it for the survey. I hope that some of the information will be both informative and helpful.



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Contest Rules & Regulations

1. DATES-- The Contest will begin at midnight on May 1st and end at midnight on October 31st, 1977. Fish must be caught during this time frame and be confirmed as a new World Record by the International Gamefish Association (I.G.F.A.) no later than February 1st, 1978.

2. ENTRY FEE--There is no entry fee to participate in the Contest. The only requirement is that you MUST have been a subscriber of The Long Island Fisherman for at least 30 DAYS before the date that a fish was caught. Immediate members of a subscriber's family are also eligible if they are living together in the same household. Example: Mother, father, brother, sister, daughter, son.

3. ELIGIBLE SPECIES--The Contest has ten (10) eligible species: five inshore and five offshore. They are:

Inshore--	Offshore--
FLUKE	BLUE SHARK
WEAKFISH	MAKO SHARK
STRIPED BASS	WHITE SHARK
BLUEFISH	SWORDFISH
BLACKFISH	WHITE MARLIN

4. RULES--The winner of the Contest will be determined by fish caught by subscribers of The Long Island Fisherman that are recognized as new World Records by the I.G.F.A. The following rules will apply:
   a. Fish must be one of the ten eligible species
   b. Catch must be made sometime between midnight May 1st and midnight October 31st, 1977.
   c. Fish must be taken in Long Island Waters.
   d. All catches must be made under the rules and regulations set up by the I.G.F.A. These rules and regulations will be printed in the May 5th issue of The Long Island Fisherman, and will be available after that date for any angler sending in a self-addressed envelope to The Fisherman.
   e. The catch must be CONFIRMED as a new World Record by the I.G.F.A. by February 1, 1978.
   f. New records can be for any of the I.G.F.A. line classes: 6-lb., 12-lb., 20-lb., 30-lb. 50-lb., 80-lb., 130-lb., or All Tackle, for both Men and Women.

5. WEIGH-STATIONS--Any of the Long Island Fisherman Official Weigh-in Stations may be used for a PRELIMINARY weigh-in of a possible world

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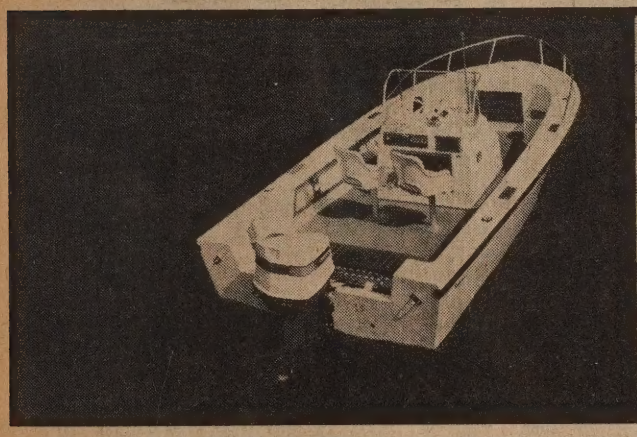

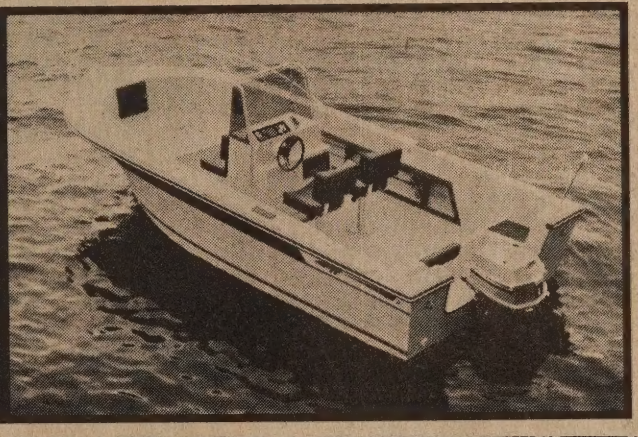

record fish. If it appears that the fish is a possible record, it must then be OFFICIALLY weighed in at STARFISH MARINE in East Islip, New York. After the Official Weigh-In Starfish Marine will prepare the necessary record applications that must be sent to the I.G.F.A. It is the anglers responsibility to transport his catch to and from Starfish Marine.

6. CURRENT RECORDS--For the convenience of eligible anglers, the current recognized records by the I.G.F.A. will be published in the May 5th issue of The Long Island Fisherman. Periodic updates of new records set while the contest is in progress will also be published in the pages of The Fisherman.

7. TIES--In the event that more than one subscriber sets a new World Record, the winner will be decided by the following criteria:
   a. The angler setting the most I.G.F.A. records during the contest will be the winner.
   b. In the event that no angler sets more than one record, but two or more anglers set a single record, the following point system will be utilized to place the winners:
      1. One point will be scored for each percentage point that the new record beat the previously held record, based on weight. Example: If the new record is 25 lbs. and the old record was 20 lbs., the new record is 25% more weight. Score 25 points.
      2. One point will also be scored for every year that prior record existed. Example: If the old record was set in May 1967 and the new record is set in 1977, score 10 points.

8. PRIZES--The Grand Prize will be the winners choice of a 1978 Grady White Center Console or a Mako 20, which will be awarded by Starfish Marine. If more than one new I.G.F.A. approved World Record is set, there will be a consolation prize for the 2nd highest point fish of $500, 3rd highest $250 and $50 for each additional record.

9. JUDGES--The decision of the judges will be final.

10. Employees of Starfish Marine or The Long Island Fisherman and their immediate family members are prohibited from participating in the Contest. Anglers that have had an article published in The Fisherman within the past three years are also ineligible.

"Whiting Evans" The Casting Gourmet

Crusty Tuna-Bean Bake

Once again by courtesy of the National Fisheries Service (what I'd do without their help in serving you with good recipes, I'll never know!) you can add to your family's pleasure or serve on the buffet at your next party—a very easily made tuna casserole which you can actually prepare beforehand and thus save your time on the day you serve it.

Summing it up, this recipe is compounded of tuna, mushroom soup, bread crumbs, eggs, and onions to make a tuna crust. The green beans, plus pimiento and dill weed for flavoring variety, make the filling; and shredded cheddar cheese crowns the top. Baked in a moderate oven until thoroughly heated and the cheese is bubbly, this tasty casserole is ready to serve.

CRUSTY TUNA-BEAN BAKE

4 cans (6¼ or 7 oz. each) tuna
2 cans (10½ oz. each) condensed cream of mushroom soup
⅔ cups of dry bread crumbs
½ cup finely chopped onion
4 eggs—beaten
½ tspn salt
1/8 tspn pepper
2 packages (9 oz. each) frozen cut green beans
¼ cup diced pimiento
½ tspn dill weed
1 cup, shredded sharp cheddar cheese
Paprika

Drain and flake the tuna. Mix with one half cup soup, dry bread crumbs, onion, eggs, salt and pepper. Line a well greased baking dish, 13 by 9 by 2 inches, with tuna mixture letting the mixture extend up the sides of the dish. Cook beans according to the directions on the package, omitting butter or oleo. Combine the beans, remaining soup, pimiento, dill weed, and pepper. Pour bean mixture into tuna lining and spread evenly. Place cheese around edge of bean mixture. Sprinkle cheese with paprika. Bake in a moderate oven at 350 degrees F. for 30 to 45 minutes. Makes 12 servings. (As said before, you can prepare this a day ahead of time and then refrigerate until baking time.)

****

Now's the best time to buy and eat those tasty fresh oysters! So says the Christian Science Monitor in a recent issue. How many should you buy! A safe rule to follow is to allow three dozen shell oysters for six people, or one quart of shucked oysters or two No. 1 cans for six persons.

How well I can remember the days when I was a boy sitting down to a Sunday night supper presided over by my father at one end of the table. In front of him were all the ingredients for an oyster stew. First, he'd light the alcohol lamp under a large chafing dish in which he'd place a good sized piece of butter. He'd then add the shucked oysters swimming in their own juice. When the edges of the oysters started to curl he'd pour in an equal quantity of whole milk and heavy cream. Flavored with salt and pepper, when that mixture attained the desired temperature, My oh My, but was that stew delicious!!

OYSTERS AND MACARONI au GRATIN

1 pint oysters
2 tblspns butter or oleo
3 tblspns flour
1½ cups milk
1 cup cooked macaroni
1 tspn salt
1/8 tspn pepper
1 cup grated cheese

Drain the oysters, melt butter in top of double boiler, blend in the flour, add milk and cook until thick, stirring constantly. Place layer of buttered macaroni in buttered casserole, cover with layer of oysters, sprinkle with salt, pepper and grated cheese. Repeat layer, pour sauce over contents of dish, and cover with grated cheese. Bake in moderate oven at 350 degrees F. for 30 minutes or until brown. Serves six.

TOMATO OYSTER BISQUE

1 pint oysters
1 quart milk
1 slice onion
4 tblspns butter
1 tblspn flour
2½ tspns salt
¼ tspn pepper
1 can condensed tomato soup

Drain oysters and chop. Add liquid and heat slowly to boiling point. Scald milk with slice of onion. Melt butter on top of double broiler, blend in flour, add milk and cook until thick, stirring constantly.

Add oysters, seasonings, tomato soup, and heat to point of boiling. Serve immediately with croutons. Serves six.

CRISP FRIED OYSTERS

36 double salted crackers
½ tspn salt
¼ tspn paprika
¼ tspn dried dill weed
2 eggs
2 tblspns water
1 pint frying oysters, well drained
Fat or oil for frying.

With rolling pin crush crackers into medium fine crumbs between two pieces of waxed paper. There should be about 2 cups. Mix well with salt, paprika and dill weed; divide into two flat plates. Beat eggs well and beat in water. Dip each oyster on both sides into egg mixture, and finally into second plate of crumbs. Let stand at least 30 minutes to "set" crumbs. (If you like, you may prepare your oysters early in the day and refrigerate until needed.) Fry in moder - ately hot fat, heated to 365 degrees F. until crusty and golden. Do not overcook. Drain on paper towels on warm platter. Garnish with lemon wedges and parsley. Accompany with tartar sauce. Makes four servings. (You can also fry the oysters in a skillet using a moderate amount of butter or oleo—not deep fat frying. Be sure to turn the oysters so that both sides are browned.) These fried oysters are perfectly delicious when served with a good old fashioned turkey dinner.

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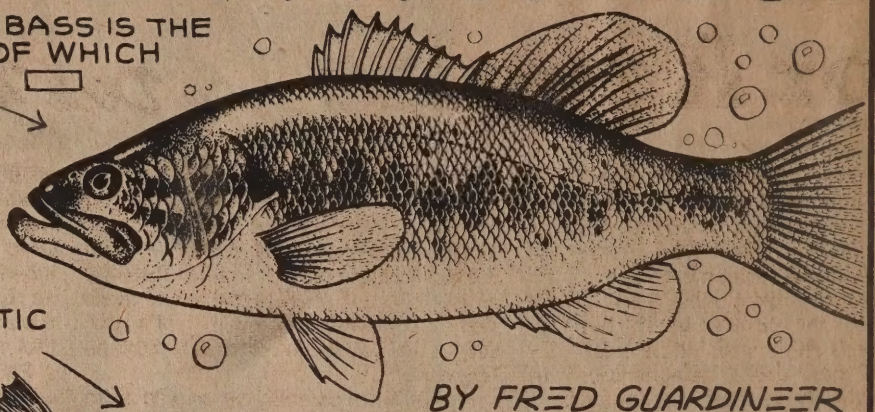


(1) THE LARGEMOUTH BASS IS THE SYMBOLIC FISH OF WHICH STATE ? MISSOURI ☐
TENNESSEE ☐
ARKANSAS ☐

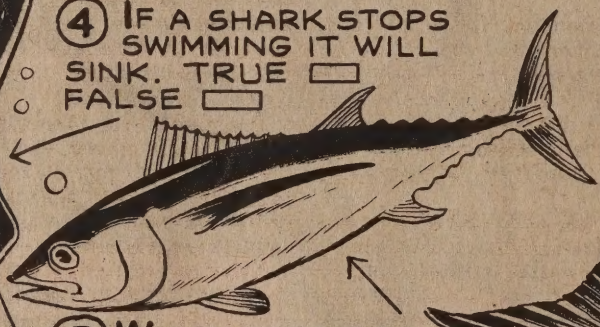
ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE.

(2) THE MULLET IS THE FAVORITE FOOD OF THE ATLANTIC SAILFISH. TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) A 22 LB. STRIPED BASS CAUGHT OFF L.I.'S FIRE ISLAND IN-LET LAST SUMMER TESTED OUT TO 13.97 PCB'S PER MILLION. WHAT IS THE DANGER LEVEL OF PCB'S IN STRIPERS ?
5 PPM ☐
10 PPM ☐
20 PPM ☐

(4) IF A SHARK STOPS SWIMMING IT WILL SINK. TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(5) WHICH SPECIE OF TUNA MAY BE CAUGHT WITHOUT ENDANGERING DOLPHINS ? BLUEFIN ☐
YELLOWFIN ☐
ALBACORE ☐

(6) FISHERMEN USE THIS DEVICE. IT IS---

(7) SNAPPING TURTLES LIVE TO BE 20-30 YRS. OLD.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

1 - ARKANSAS. 2 - FALSE. IT'S A FAVORITE BAIT, BUT NOT A FAVORITE FOOD. 3 - 5 PPM. 4 - TRUE. A SHARK HAS NO AIR BLADDER. 5 - THE ALBACORE TUNA. IT IS CAUGHT ON LONGLINES AND NOT IN THE NETS WHICH DESTROY DOLPHINS. 6 - A WIRE TWISTER USED FOR MAKING UP WIRE LEADERS, LURES ETC. 7 - TRUE. AND SNAPPING TURTLES OFTEN WEIGH 20-30 LBS.

Rationalize for Results

by Dick Mermon

Reels are the least place where any ıgler may find faults. Yet, they are ɔmetimes culprits of many frustrations ıring fishing adventures. Rarely do ese pieces of equipment claim to be e reason of broken lines. But there are dden wear points which become ızards all anglers should be aware of.

Since most line breakage occurs on ɔinning reels, because the lightness of e line's pound test, and composition hich it is manufactured of, it should ɔcome apparent that frayed monofila- ent is due to some sort of abrasion ɛtween the tip of the rod and the spool ı the reel. Assuming all guides have all ɛen checked, or new ones replaced, it ands to reason that the reel is the alefactor.

Line rollers at the pickup bail produce ore ill feelings about certain manu- ctured mono lines then they should be amed for. It is at this point, where ono meets roller pickup wheel, that ost heat is generated, causing the eakdown of the line. Some reels have ationary line rollers of steel. Others are anufactured of stainless steel, or a ırder material, carbide. No matter hat type of metal the pickup roller is ade of, it will maletreat the line to ɔme extent if it does not rotate. Very w spinning reels have this revolving ller wheel attached to the bail wire.

Most of these one piece pickup bails ill become blemished if they are ationary, or prevented from turning hen the line is retrieved. Once a groove formed in the small roller, or section here the line is positioned, the mono ill catch into it constantly, causing ınute cracks of wear and weakness.

A brass bushing, which is the inner heel or bearing of some line rollers, ave a tendency to gather sand or gunk. uild-up of this material within the ushing cause it to revolve unevenly, nd a wear of the bearing then is ɔpsided. Once this occurs, the outside ɔller cannot turn properly. In turn the ɔller wheel will inevitably groove from s improper rotation.

Inner bushings made of teflon are now eing used on several spinning reels. his material keeps the roller moving ound even when abrasive dirt is resent. Such rollers never have a hance to become seized or grooved. hakespeare Company has enjoyed this rivilege for years on their spinning eels with teflon bushings within the oller wheels and now Penn has joined the field.

Hidden defects usually arise at unexpected moments. Sometimes it takes more than the naked eye to discover a slight burr on the bail near the roller pickup. If at any time should there be any insinuation or suspicion of a wear spot at this point, the entire bail must be replaced.

Broken lines can also be caused from poor drag systems of spinning reels as well as grooves. Leather drag washers must be impregnated with oil for them to work properly, but after a season's use become lifeless. Leather disks will flatten to a point where they are too tight for smooth operation. Once they have been compressed to this point, they must be replaced.

In less expensive spinning reels, condensed paper like material offers very little resistance on the drag system. If oil is placed onto this material it only becomes sticky and binding. All washers of paper like material should be replaced with either teflon or leather drag washers.

Asbestos disk drag, which are also used, do not require lubrication at any time. Once any type lubricant reaches their surface, it renders themselves useless. Therefore, careful lubrication of the reel's internal parts must take place to prevent any oil from getting on this type disk. Constant friction applied to these disks also compresses them, so they too must be replaced when necessary.

Teflon drag washers have faults also. Some washers manufactured of this material break down when tremendous heat is applied from a fish. A slight bit of lubricant will help rather than hinder the operation of teflon. All tension placed upon the drag system should be released, allowing the washers to relax into a normal position. Should the reel be permitted to stand for a lengthy period without use, the drag disks become squeezed under the pressure, hindering the smoothness of operation.

No matter which type of material is used, all drag disks should be replaced at least once each fishing year. Even the metal disks can and do go bad but not as often as the softer material.

Also part of the drag system is the disk positioned on the spinning reel's spool. Alone in its section and completely exposed, it usually is first to feel effects of wear from fishing. No matter what material it is composed of the disk should be slightly oiled for smooth rotation. Each type of material used in the drag system of a spinning reel has its good and bad features, leaving it to the individual angler which is preferred. But no matter what the choice, each should replace drag systems when they become lifeless.

Faulty or compressed dark washers will cause the spool to bind, or hesitate in releasing the line. Under fast spinning tension, a spool will build tremendous heat, expanding the condensed material. This slight expansion is enough to stop the spool from rotating freely at high speed. Hesitation multiplied by a sudden stop and go upon the line being used means trouble. Sudden jolts placed on the mono can over stress the pound test and snap the line. It will break sooner if there has been abrasion marks added to the monofilament by another malfunction of the rod or reel.

Conventional or revolving spool reels are not quite as worthy of censure as spinning reels, but they too must be inspected in their drag systems. The difference here is that once the drag washers have become worn out they will not hold any tension, or become so tight they bind. A drag system on any reel must build slightly to almost a complete stop without any hesitation when a line strip is applied. If pliers have to be used to tighten the drag systems to its fullest, I would say the reel is beyond its time for drag replacement.

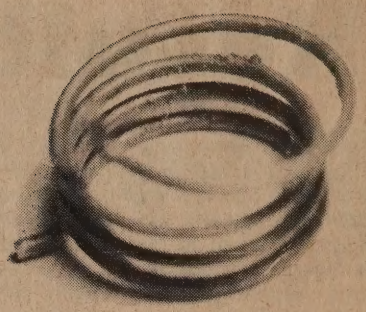
Before the implementation of the star drag system into reels, angler's knew just how much pressure to apply on the line of the spool. Each fisherman's thumb became instantly educated, first by a blister, then a callus. Now it has been made simpler, yet, many anglers do not realize the importance of the drag system. Maybe they too need a few of these blisters on the thumb to remind them of the change.

Another simple spinning reel wear is

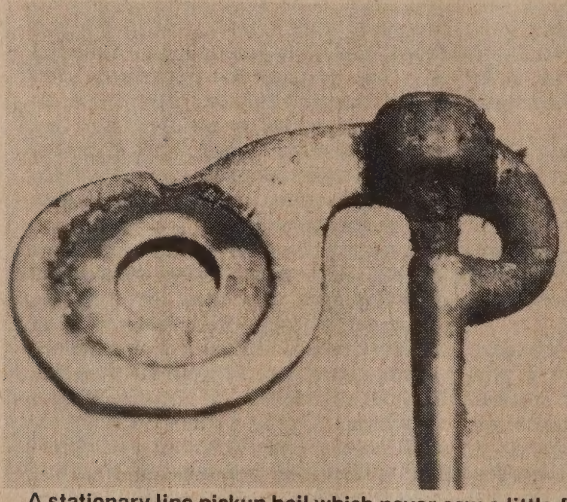
(**Continued on page 36.**)

See Photo Series On Next Two Pages ►

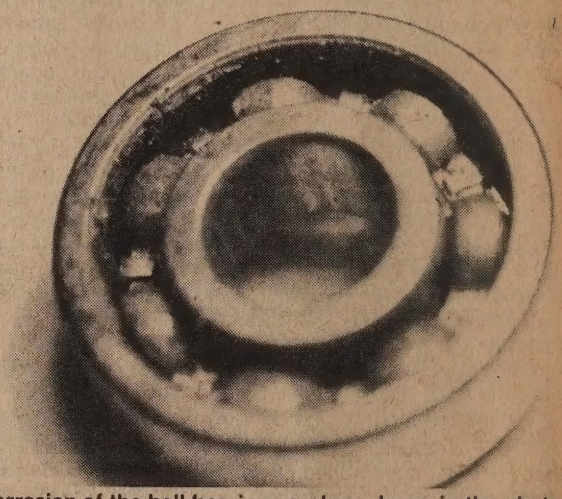
A stationary line pickup roller that has grooved from over use.



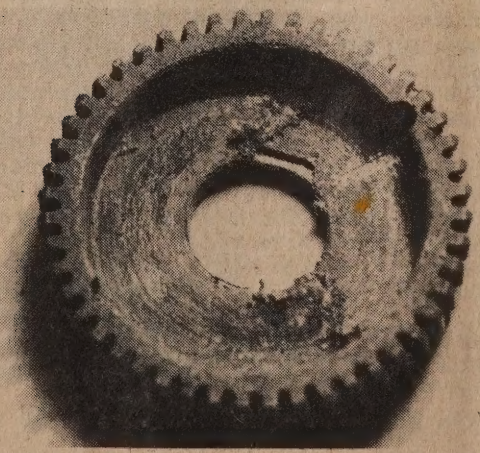
A tired bail spring looks like the one shown in the photo. Its top coil has been bent out of shape from constant use without lubricant. Note the corrosion buildup on the coils.



A stationary line pickup bail which never saw a little fresh water or oil. It is completely rusted, grooved and chrome completely worn off.

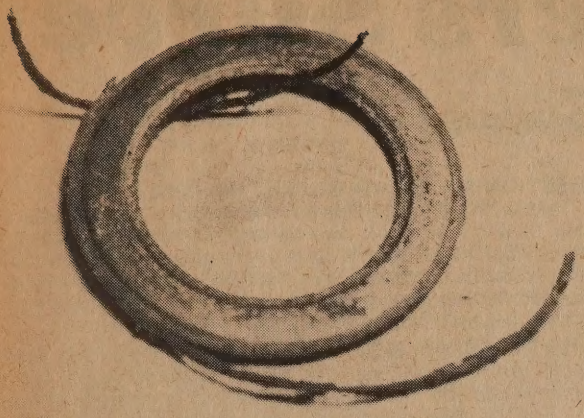


Corrosion of the ball bearings such as shown in the photo will cause the housing to become seized if left unchecked during the winter months or from non use.

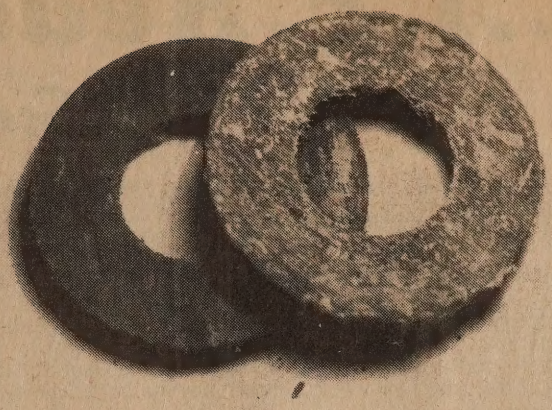


The drag washer has melted firmly into the reel's main drive gear. It had to be scraped from the inner section of the gear, cleaned smooth and new ones placed back into the section. Corrosion has formed over the entire braking system within the reel.

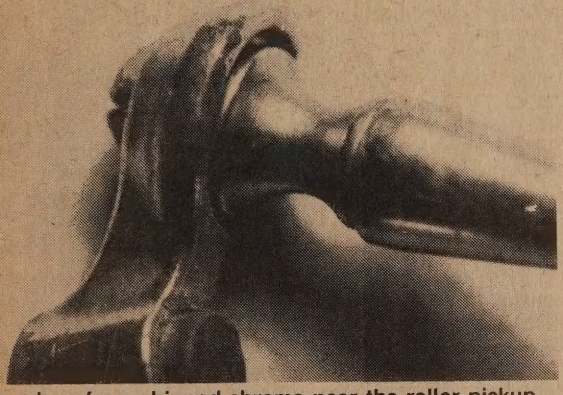
Brass and asbestos drag washers which were never changed in this spinning reel gear have gunked to a point where the drag system has rendered itself useless. This type of inconsideration of one's tackle should never happen.



A lifeless leather washer of the drag system has fallen apart in pieces. It is so compressed that its edges have worn paper thin.



A new asbestos drag washer lays atop a used one. Notice the material roughness, until it has been broken in to form a smooth bond similar to that of a car brake shoe.



Sharp edges from chipped chrome near the roller pickup wheel will cause mono to become nicked. The wheel itself has worn lobsided and slight grooves are beginning to form upon it.

A roller line pickup that is completely corroded and its inner support bushing worn out. The circle also indicates several burrs on the bail arm support that would cause line cutting.

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See Us At The Long Island Boat Show

L.I.F. Readers Survey

by Scott Simons

In the January 13th issue of *The Long Island Fisherman* we published a 25 part questionaire that we asked our readers to fill out so that we at The Fisherman could get a better "feel" about what you would like to see in our magazine. To date over 600 responses have been received and they are still coming in the mail. One of the most frequent comments was something to the effect of "We would like to see the results of this survey," So here it is! We'll limit ourselves to the questions concerning editorial content, as it is doubtful that many of the questions would concern anyone but advertisers.

QUESTION #1. *What is your favorite type of fishing?*

Not too much surprise to the results of this one, with the possible exception of the number of readers that do some surfcasting. Percentages from highest to lowest were: Small Boat 62%, Surfcasting 23%, Party Boat 20%, Jetty 8%, Fresh Water 6%, and 6% checked the box "Other". Two readers were secretive enough to check "Other" without specifying what it was.

No major changes are planned as a result of the answers to the question because they were pretty much what we suspected.

QUESTION #3. *What species do you pursue? (List 3.)*

The responses to this one may shake up a few people. Before you read any further, what do you think are the four most popular species in order? Listed below is the order of finish with the percentage of readers preferring each species.:

SPECIES	%
BLUEFISH	65
FLUKE	54
STRIPED BASS	50
WEAKFISH	41
FLOUNDER	36
BLACKFISH	29
CODFISH	10
MACKEREL	6
PORGY	4
SEA BASS	4
SHARKS	4
TUNA	4
TROUT	4
KINGFISH	2
SNAPPERS	2
WHITING	2

To the two readers that had Northern Pike and Crappie written in on their questionaires, we can only suggest that perhaps you are reading the wrong publication.

QUESTION #11. *Do you own your own boat?*

As we have long believed, the majority of our readers do their fishing from their own fishing machines. The response was: YES, 64% ; NO, 36% . It is interesting to note how closely this percentile correlates with the 62% that said their favorite type of fishing was from small boats in Question #1. No wonder it's so crowded out there!

QUESTION #20, 21 & 22. *What type of articles do you like the most? Which would you like to see expanded coverage of? Which would you like to see covered less or dropped entirely?*

For the sake of analysis, the readers responses to these three questions were correlated into the table below. It should be noted that while fourteen different types of articles were listed for question #20 and all the reader had to do was check off his favorites, questions 21 and 22 required that the reader actually write in what type of articles they wanted more or less coverage of.

We had several surprises on this question, particularly concerning the number of readers that checked off "Marine Environment," a remarkable 59% . It's obvious that our articles (particularly those of Dr. William A. Muller) about the importance of the tidal marshlands and the dangers of Kepone's, PCB's, power plants, waste-dumping, oil spills and other forms of pollution have caught your attention, and hopefully the apathy of earlier years is now a thing of the past. We will continue with our editorials and scientific papers on matters concerning our Marine Environment that will keep our readers informed.

According to our readers, the five most popular types of articles are, in order: Where-To-Go 75% ; Bottom Fishing 69% ; Marine Environment 59% ; How-To Make Things 58% and Casting Artificials 45% .

We had anticipated the popularity of Where-To-Go type articles from the response to articles like Doc Muller's series on Weakfishing in the Peconics, John DeMaio's articles on bass fishing at Montauk and trend-setter Doc Grell's pieces on the art of fishing Great South Bay, and as a result our contributing writers were put on notice last fall that we wanted more gutsy articles on how to fish for a specific species in a specific area. The 69% scored for Bottom Fishing was to be expected and we will continue our in-depth coverage. But we won't go overboard in the sinker bouncing department, least we beat a good thing into the ground, and will continue to cover all aspects of fishing, so that there is something for everyone.

How-To-Make Things has always been a popular subject and we have many great articles on the drawing boards for this coming season: how-to make molds for sinkers, lead-head jigs, drails, diamond jigs, etc., porkrind, tying bucktails, fish boxes, dying clams, rigging eels and offshore baits, tying rigs,

20. What type of articles do you like the most?	20. % Liked the most:	21. % Want Expanded:	22. % Want Less Coverage
HOW-TO-MAKE THINGS	58	18	1
WHERE-TO-GO	75	28	2
SURF CASTING	32	12	1
BOTTOM FISHING	69	17	0
CASTING ARTIFICIALS	45	6	0
TROLLING	36	5	1
OFFSHORE, BIG GAME	11	4	3
PARTY BOATS	33	7	4
FRESH WATER	14	6	22
COOKING	34	4	8
ULTRA-LITE TACKLE	19	4	4
BOATING & SEAMANSHIP	37	8	2
BEACH BUGGIES	12	4	19
MARINE ENVIRONMENT	59	13	3

tc. If there is anything in particular you would like to learn ow to make, or you have some contraption that you would like o tell our readers about, please feel free to drop us a line and et us know about it.

One area we are obviously lacking in is Casting rtificials, because the 45% positive response just doesn't jive vith the 32% figure for surf casting, where we would expect to ind the most interest in casting. So we have concluded that ou want more on the art of casting from small boats for pecies such as fluke, weakfish, bluefish, and striped bass. Jnfortunately, we don't have any in-depth articles on this ubject in our hands at present, but rest assured that we will e working to make up for this lack.

The one response that really surprised us was that 37% of our readers said that Boating and Seamanship was their favorite type of article. We have always made a point of avoiding this topic because it is so broad, but have decided as a result of your response to change our policy so that this gap may be filled. Starting in March we will have a bi-weekly series of articles on Boating Seamanship and Navigation that will rotate with Whiting Evan's popular column (34%) *The Casting Gourmet*. The new boating column will be authored by Captain Irv Levine, who has been running a very successful course during the last few years that prepares would-be captains for their Coast Guard Examinations. Captain Irv sez he will be concentrating on topics that are directly related to the success and enjoyment of fishing: how-to read a chart, plot a course, compasses, rules-of-the-road, buoy systems, etc.

Another surprise was the low score of offshore fishing, which only 11% scored, which correlates with the figures given in Question #1 of 4% for sharks and tuna. Obviously still somewhat the "rich-man's" gamefish to a large extent, we will continue with our present low-profile coverage of the offshore scene and have no plans for expanded coverage in this area.

Two types of articles received decidedly negative responses and the readers went out of their way to write in that they wanted to see either less coverage or have them dropped entirely. These were Fresh Water with a negative response of 22%, and Beach Buggies with a remarkable 19%. The negative rating is remarkable, we feel, because we have virtually no coverage of this subject, so we will continue as little coverage as possible. The negative rating for Fresh Water was to be expected in an area so heavily predominated by salt water fishing, but we feel that the magazine would be lacking in responsibility if we didn't cover this area on a local level for the 14% of our readers that still like to dunk a worm. So we will continue with Angelo Peluso's Fresh Water column in its present form, and have no plans of cutting down on the coverage or editorial space devoted to the fresh water scene.

QUESTION #23. *Which feature in The Fisherman do you read first?*

This turned out to be the most poorly worded question on the form. Naturally, Fishing Reports ran away with it with a positive rating of 64%. Where we went wrong was just putting the word "Columns" down instead of listing them so that readers could check them off. But many took the trouble to write in their favorite columnist or feature writer author. Most popular columns according to those that are read first by readers were: Sinker Bouncing by Matt Ahern 7%, SurfSide by Fritz/Schwab/Orlando/Muller etc. 6%, The Bottom Line by Scott Simons 5%, and Fish Talk by Dr. Wm. A. Muller 4%. Captain John DeMaio and Captain Ronnie Lepper received the most responses for feature writers, so you'll be seeing more of both in '77. Fred Guardineer's popular drawings received their usual high ratings, but what can you expect from the Master?

QUESTION #25. *If the monies generated from license fees were used for projects such as marine research, public fishing piers and public launching ramps, increased beach access, construction of artificial fishing reefs, etc., would you be in favor of a Salt Water Fishing License?*

For such a potentially controversial subject, the reader response to this question really set us back on our heels: 68% of our readers answered "YES", 32% answered "NO". In other words, two-out-of-three anglers would be in favor of a license as proposed in the question, better than a two-to-one majority. But the fact remains that a large number of anglers are definitely opposed to a license in any form, and many of the anglers that answered "YES" to the question did so with grave reservations.

A few representative samples of these reservations are:

"I answered yes to the question, but truthfully I don't believe the monies would ever be spent as stated. The bureaucrats will spend it all for administrative purposes."

"Remember what happened with the Highway Tax and its purpose...now being used for mass transportation and limousine's for the big shots."

"What happened to the State Lottery? First it was only for education...now Carey's talking about the 'excess' going into the General Fund."

"No way—It's going to be impossible to enforce."

We at The Fisherman **also** have many of these reservations, and that was why the question was worded so carefully and specified the way the monies derived from license fees would be used. Accepting the fact that a Salt Water Fishing License is an inevitability of the future, we want to lend our support **now** to a license that would improve both the environment and quality of fishing, rather than waiting for that inevitable day when a license with monies going into the General Fund is shoved down our throats.

Basically, a bill to establish a Salt Water Fishing License would have to conform with a minimum of five requirements before we would lend our support to its passage. 1. License fees **must** go into a "Special Fund", not the General Fund, with the specified purpose that monies will only be used to protect our marine environment and to improve fishing facilities. 2. The administrative costs will not be permitted to exceed a set percentage rate of the total monies collected from license fees. 3. The license must be easy to obtain, not required for those under 18 years of age, and provisions must be made for a one-day temporary license for the "casual" fisherman. 4. A supervising board of **sportfishermen** and others will be set up so that the administration of the purpose of the license will not be lost in a maze of bureaucracy. 5. The method of issuing licenses be set up to insure that it does not threaten the economic health of the various segments of the sportfishing industry: Open Boats, Charter Boats, Tackle Shops, Boat Rental Liveries, Marinas, etc.

We had many requests to look into having the Shinnecock, Moriches and Fire Island Inlets dredged to make them safer to navigate. Unfortunately, at this point we do not have either the manpower or financial foundation to make a realistic attempt at such an undertaking. The same reply would have to suffice for the many inquiries concerning the condition and location of public launching ramps. But both of these projects have been given a priority and they **will** be tackled as soon as feasible.

Many, many requests appeared in the space for "COMMENTS" concerning fishing maps and charts for various areas and when were we going to get the ball rolling. Our position is simple: until we have the available manpower to produce the fishing maps the **right** way, we won't do it. Examples: a **bad** fishing map would be a reproduction of a nautical chart with the words "fluke, flounder, blackfish, bluefish," etc., pasted all over it. It may look pretty, but it wouldn't mean a damn thing. When we are ready to produce a series of charts, they will include the following information: currents, time computations for slack water, depth variances, type of bottom composition, bottom formations, local names given to the areas by fishermen like "Four Corners, Babylon Cut, Split Rock, Target Rock, New Cut, Basket Area, Rocky Point, Coconuts, The Brown House" etc. In short, when we do it, it's going to be done right.

We found many of the Comments to be humerous. One angler's complaint was simple: "There's too many people on the Island." Another said, "Now that my wife has left me, I'll be able to do a lot more fishing.!" We even had a few women's libbers that complained that we used the term "Fisherman" rather than "fisherperson." Well, dear ladies, the reason we don't is because Webster's definition is: **"fisherman,** n. 1. a person who fishes for sport or a living."

But the one comment that really got to us was the fellow with the following plea for his comment:

"Could you please slow down The Long Island Fisherman Grady White? Last year I tried to follow you out of Montauk Inlet but couldn't keep up with my twin-forties."

Come on guys, that's carrying things a little **too** far...give us a break!

1976 At Montauk

by Capt. John DeMaio

Part I

This report is compiled by my record of fish I marketed and personal observations from memory. Undoubtedly some will dispute what I have to say, especially a few of those in the trade. Nevertheless, what follows is 1976, the way I saw it!

Before summarizing the past season on a month to month basis, I would like to speak of the year as a whole. To say it was a poor season would be considered understatement. Yet, a large segment of the fishing population who ply Montauk's waters would proclaim a bountiful year. At least those anglers most fortunate to have chosen the right day. Bluefish seemed always a distant travel for a sure bet. Striped bass started poorly, surprised us in July and held in reasonable quantities until the end of September. From then on it was a slow fizzle. Summer groundfish put in a strong showing to surprise and delight the sportsman, particularly the fluke.

Early spring, (April) showed a run of big Boston mackerel for a week or more. By the middle of April the school was scattered, which left the local waters around Montauk dry. There were no codfish and very few flounder. Still there was excellent fishing to be had south of Block Island. Within view of the island were heavy concentrations of cod and pollack. These fish were feeding on large sand eels and were following the baitfish. Some days the entire fleet would find it tough fishing because of the inability to locate the bait. On the days the fish were found, catches into the tons were thrown up on the Montauk docks.

The "Jean III," with a party of three on board, unloaded better than 2,000 pounds of cod and pollack caught on a short day. A party of 10 on Capt. Dick Vigilant's "Triton II" had an unreal catch of 4,000 pounds for a days fishing. The best part was the method used to catch. Mostly no bait. These big fish averaging 20 pounds were taken on diamond jigs and tubes. Great fun. I managed 900 pounds one day for four fishermen. We searched all day and finally nailed the fish in the last 2 hours. With a strong west wind in our faces, what should have been a 2 hour trip took nearly 4 hours to return. The wind stayed hard in the west all spring and made the trip across impossible on most days for a boat of my size. Not knowing at the time, this pattern of westerly winds was to continue through the season causing considerable damage to the entire fishing scene on Long Island. Fortunately, Montauk was spared the polluted beaches and "grease balls" that plagued the western shores.

Early May still saw a dead bottom off the light at Montauk. By the middle of the month a few more flounders took hold and sea bass began to show. No cod and no pollack. At the end of May the sea bass fishing was better than other years at that time. Still too early to determine if this was not just the hungry migration that would soon be wiped out, or the beginning of a banner year.

(At the time of this writing we are having the hardest winter on record for many a year. Perhaps this is a blessing for the fishermen. Maybe with a hard winter, we can expect a proper spring, putting the fishing conditions in a correct perspective. I believe a hard winter will give us a productive fishing season. As good as one can hope for in this day of factory trawlers and oil spills, a big freeze isn't the worst. An early anchor frost can do more damage than a frozen over bay. Also, in a winter such as this, many fishing activities are curtailed giving the fish and shell fish a chance to multiply, or simply live a little longer. Unfortunately, it is only the American fleet of fishing boats, out-dated and out-moded, that will suffer the most.)

My first catch of bass came on May 24th. Three fish weighed 44 pounds. Finally! The bass had arrived. On the 28th day of May I took 337 pounds. No doubt about it, the bass were here in quantity, but not the quantity I had hoped for. Here again a pattern was being set for the coming year. The pattern of highs and lows, ups and downs. It was definitely not the same fishing we had come to expect in the past several Junes, although the fishing did not slack off after a two week blitz as in the previous years. In fact, the best day came on the twenty third when Capt. Dick Vigilant and I diamond jigged 500 pounds on one tide. Much to my joy, the diamond jig was holding its own as a fish catching method. The wire line still proved the only way to get a bite at times. Still, the bass jumped on the jigs better than usual.

July was the same if not better. A large body of bass began pouring by the Point in July. The fish were mostly in 50 to 60 feet of water, perfect for the diamond jig. This was exceptional for 2 reasons—summer bass fishing is mostly better at sunrise and sunset...here and there a good day, or tide, if you are at the right spot at the right time. Two—they are caught better on wire than jigs. This July we had a hot run of bass, (I mean hot both ways...I fished in shorts some days) and the fish would take the jig. Once again there were days you couldn't get yourself arrested. On these days, the fluke and sea bass would take up the slack.

On one fish check I recorded the first bluefish the first day of June. With striped bass available I could care less. By the end of the month the bluefish were in stronger numbers, but no bonanza. Once again the high and lows. The sure thing bluefish areas weren't as sure as sure as yesteryear.

One June 9th I saw the first weakfish. In 1975, the last two weeks of June and the first two in July dazzled me by the greatest showing of weakfish I have ever seen in my lifetime. All taken casting and plenty of fun. Again not so in 1976. I had 3 good mornings where I cast a hundred pounds in the first light of dawn. After this healthy start the fish played a hit and ran the game that made them difficult to locate. The weakfish stayed on the move the entire year. You caught them where you found them. Sometimes in the strangest places.

Fluke came along strong in June, as to be expected, only they stayed strong all year. The lack of big fluke was over-shadowed by the amount. Pockets of fluke in early season could be seen breaking the surface chasing bait in shallow water. These fish would eagerly take a casted bucktail and porkrind. Later on the fish moved off into the deep rips and would bite best at slack tides. At the end of the season I had a party of two men take a hundred pounds or so in a little over an hours fishing at slack water. Unlike the bass, blues and weaks, the fluke were consistent. Especially so towards the end. Just when you think the fluke had eaten enough to swim to Africa, the next day they would bite even better. I never saw the likes.

In pursuit of sport, and productivity, I kept up using the bucktail for fluke...even in the deep water. To no surprise, the jigged bucktail proved more effective than the hook and sinker at the slack water period. At least in getting the damn fish to bite. Many hits were missed, but you had the action. Plus the moving lure would often pick out the biggest fish. No doubt about it, it was one helluva year for fluke.

The New CB Radios

by Seaway Communications

With the introduction of the 40 channel CB radio came the inevitable rumors and speculations that CB'rs are noted for. Here are some of them and some evaluations.

One—40 channel sets have less power output than the 23 channel sets. THIS IS DEFINITELY FALSE!! We recently tested a 40 channel radio in our shop and under laboratory conditions with a dummy load. Our tests showed that from channel 1 thru channel 13 the measured power output was 3.5 watts, from channel 14 thru 28 the power output measured 3.4 watts, and the power output for the remainder of the channels 29 thru 40 was 3.5 watts. This is comparable with 23 channel sets where the output can run anywhere from 3.0 to 3.3 watts. The 0.1 watt variation over the 40 channel spread is really insignificant when you take into consideration it represents less than a 1% change in output.

Two—100% modulation cannot be achieved on the 40 channel radios. THIS IS DEFINITELY FALSE!! Our tests showed that 100% modulation was easily achieved on all 40 channels.

Three—40 channel CB sets will not be available to the consumer until early March 1977. NOT TRUE!! Some major dealers are caught with a large supply of 23 channel sets and are supporting such statements in order to move out their 23 channel stock. We presently have a good supply of 40 channel radios in stock, as do many other independent CB shops.

Four—Channels 24 thru 0 have been reserved for SSB only. THIS IS DEFINITELY FALSE!! These channels have been in use by illegal CB'rs for over a year. AM or SSB can be used on any of the 40 CB channels as outlined in the FCC rules. CB'rs using the new channels will have to compete not only with the HF CB operator, but also with the commercial two-way radio user who have been using these channels legally for many years. Eventually the commercial operators will move to less congested bands but until they do, the new channels will be very congested.

Five—Will I need a new antenna if I buy a 40 channel radio? Not necessarily. The 8', 10' and 18' marine antennas will operate over the 40 channel spread with acceptable SWR. It will be typically less than 2.0:2 over the band. Automobile antennas are another story. If your antenna is one of the shortened ones (under 25 inches in overall length) you will have to replace it with a wider band model if you want good performance over the entire 40 channel spread. Any antenna with an overall length of 34 inches will give acceptable performance. However, the whip section may have to be shortened to provide the best SWR.

Six—To sum up...40 channel radios are just as powerful as the 23 channel counterpart. 23 channel antennas will work on 40 channel radios as long as the overall length of the antenna is 34'' or more...40 channel radios are here to stay, let's not sell them short.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dale and Lenny of Seaway Communications will be in Booth #47 at the Long Island Boat Show and will be happy to answer any questions our readers may have about the new CB radios on the market or any other marine electronics.

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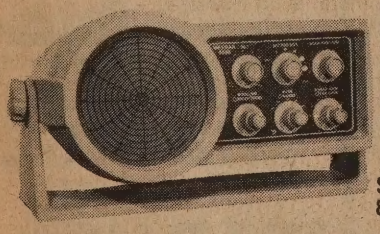

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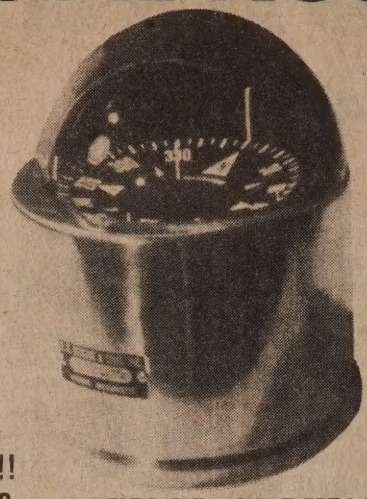

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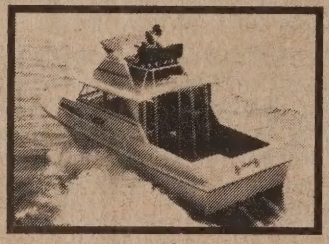

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RATIONALIZE FOR RESULTS

(Continued from page 29.)

its bail spring. These coils of wire do become tired from over use and will loose their tension. When this happens, the bail wire pickup does not snap closed sharply. Line will then become caught half way to the roller line pickup section, causing the bail to stay partially open. Instead of the hook being set, or lure stopped in place for retrieving, the line continues to run free from the spool. If there is no quick, sharp snap sound from the closed bail, it is time to replace the bail spring.

Many of the inexpensive type spinning reels do not contain roller bearings within the housing and therefore bind if not lubricated in the proper areas. More expensive reels have these bearings and if left during winter without proper lubrication will also seize. This is the roller bearings which produce a smooth rotation of the bell housing, winding the line onto the spool. Should this bearing casement rust or even develop corrosion during its inactivity, the new season will find it with an uneven retrieve or not able to retrieve line at all. Light lubrication of this encased housing of bearings is important at all times.

The systems I have mentioned are the most frequent ones which anglers take for granted or pay little attention to, both in and out of the season. Often manufacturers are blamed for a malfunction of a piece of tackle which was really the angler's fault. There are periods when a defect does originate at the interim of manufacturing, but this is seldom. Prevention of malfunctions on the reels should be done now. It is presently time to rationalize the situation to get proper results.

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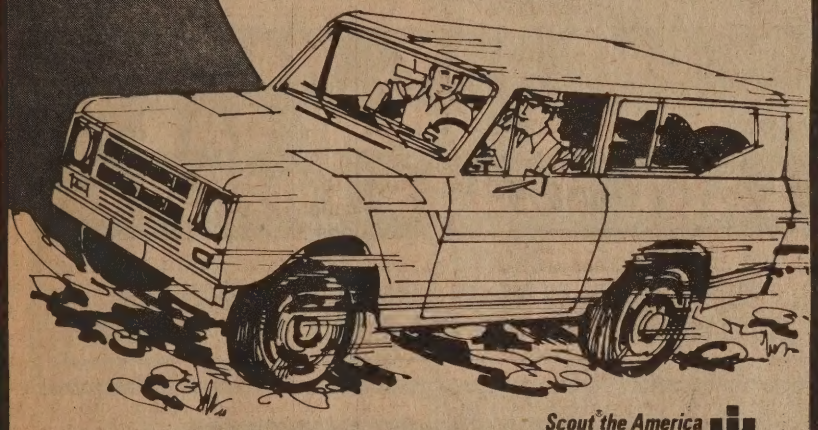

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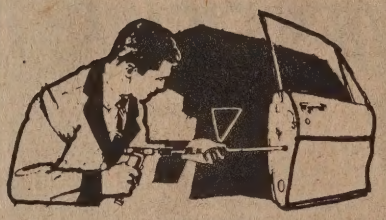

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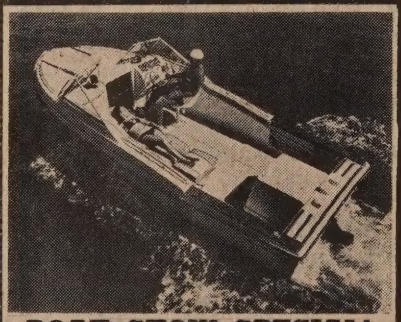

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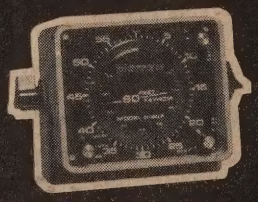

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SINKER BOUNCING: COD
(Continued from page 16.)

wish.) Make sure all slices to the bone are clean. Don't leave partial cuts. They produce ragged-looking fillets.

Photo Two. Start at the shoulder. Lay the knife blade flat. Use the three dorsal fins as guides and begin slicing. Make sure the blade slides over the skeleton—not under. Lift the fillet as you go along. You can then easily guide the knife toward the center of the fish.

Photo Three. Life the blade over the backbone and proceed to the opposite side to the tail. Slice the strip off neatly and you have your first fillet.

To remove the opposite side, work your fish in reverse. Turn fish over, head toward you. Make shoulder cut to vent as before. Then make a slice across base of tail. Start here and fillet along dorsal fins until shoulder is reached. Complete cut as in photo three, cut off and you have quickly and easily filleted your first cod. (See, I told you it wasn't difficult.)

Photo Four. This shows the actual skinning in progress. Wet the knife blade and place the fillet on board, skin side down. Hold the fillet at the tail-end and make a shallow cut about one inch in from end. Careful you don't go through! Hold the skin firmly in one hand, place kinfe at a flat angle and pull fillet against the blade with short, sideway motions. The skin will easily peel off.

And that's all there is to filleting a cod. Check each slice for bone around the stomach area, then wash to remove loose scales and meat particles. Drain before putting in freezer, or preparing for supper.

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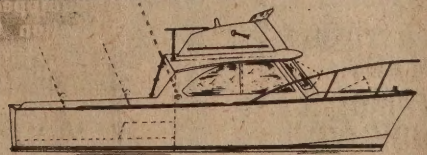

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Ice flows blocking the inlet have made it very difficult for boats to leave the harbor, but the recent mild weather should see the end of this problem shortly. Two boats are presently sailing open when they can get out—Capt. Richard Rade's brand new **Marlin IV** and the **Peconic Queen III**, skippered by Capt. Jimmy Behan. Capt. Paul Forsberg said that the **Viking Star** will start sailing again sometime in March—watch his ad.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Captain Al** reports that on Saturday fares boated 25 cod and on Sunday 21 cod came over the rail. Mrs. Lindroth did not know the size of the fish but said that they were smaller than the sizes caught earlier in the year. Note that the **Captain Al** will be sailing Saturday, Sunday and holidays only until further notice.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Both the **Helen H** and **The Eagle** report very slow whiting and ling action now, mainly due to the melting of the ice coming down out of the Hudson, resulting in extremely low water temperatures and therefore extremely sluggish feeding by the fish.

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VERITY SKIFF REBIRTH

(Continued from page 21.)

the boats seaworthiness. "The old Verity (and the Grovercraft 26') are designed to get the guys out and home. The inlet was often boiling and those little old fishing boats used to come through like ducks. Remember, these boats were built to fit all sea conditions and a man trying to make a livelihood often endured some of the worst weather and sea conditions, 12 months a year. This hull design was test-proven by many a rugged old fisherman, not hell-bent on pleasure, just determined to make a living and make it home."

Recently, the U.S. Park Police purchased one of the Grovercrafts to patrol the waters around and near Reis Park.

Thus far, 7 Grovercrafts have been sold, which also, 'till now, has been the maximum production possible. A "showpiece", sporting a 6 cyl. diesel and heavily trimmed in solid teak, will be on display at the 1977 Long Island Boat Show at the Nassau County Coliseum. (Sorry fellas, it's already sold.)

To sum it up, Mr. Grover has faithfully recreated a 26 footer of clean, classic design, strong and rugged, over-built to commercial specifications, seaworthy and economical. No frills, carpets, buckets seats, etc., but what she does have, will definitely warm a fishermans heart.

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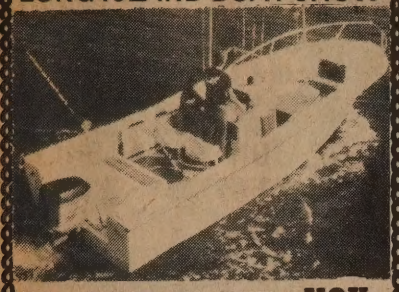

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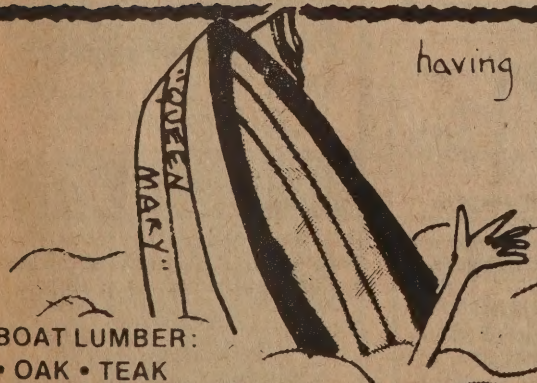

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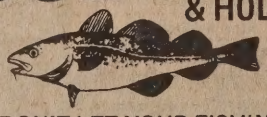

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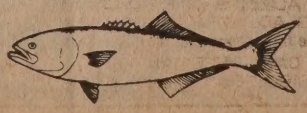

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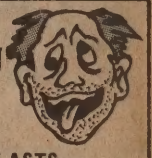

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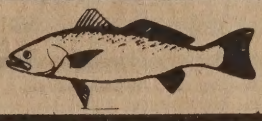

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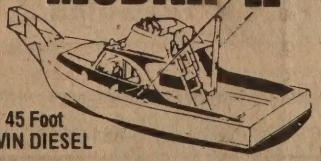

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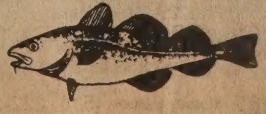

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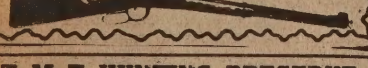

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The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

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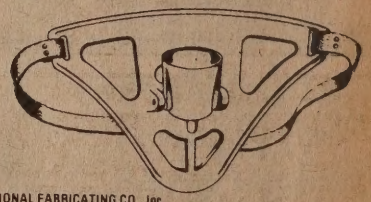

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★ Bonus Prize ★

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LAST WEEK'S WINNER:
Jeff Weems of Holbrook is the winner this week of the contest. He receives $10 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard the Peconic Queen III.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:
FIC-671

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

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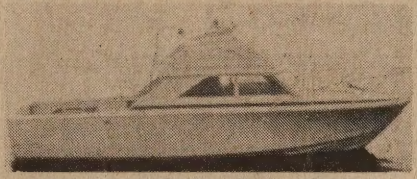

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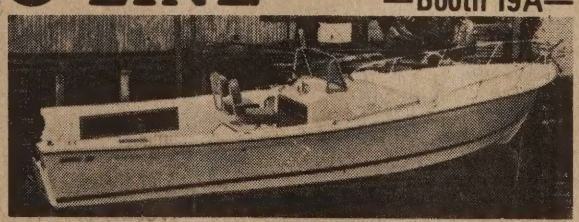

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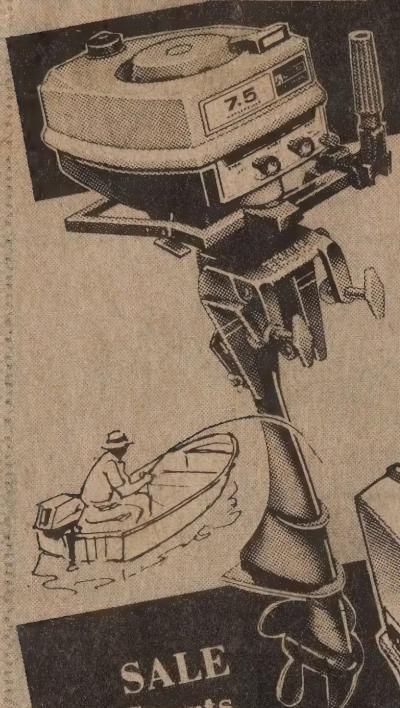

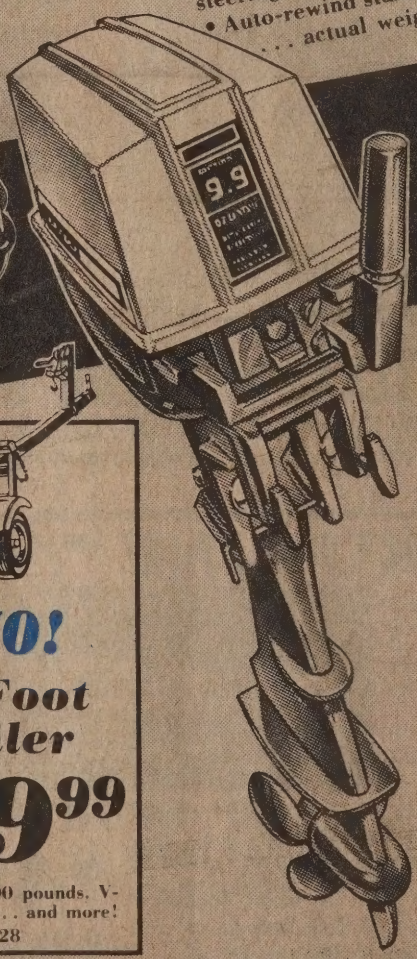

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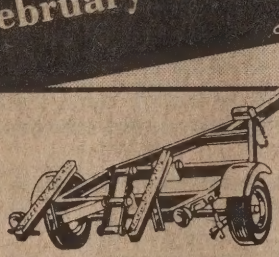

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